MONDAY
May 22, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
16 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

FOLLOW US
facebook.com/thehindu
twitter.com/the_hindu
instagram.com/the_hindu

Vol.54 • No.120

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Tirupati » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

SECURITY AT G-20

Delegates' Kashmir itinerary changed

NEWS » PAGE 10

CAUVERY BASIN DAMS

Sufficient water to last through June

SOUTH » PAGE 7

GUARDIANS OF THE GANGA

Task force keeps a watchful eye on river

NEWS » PAGE 12

DATA POINT

1 in 7 Indian schools run by lone teacher

This is in gross violation of the RTE Act

OPINION » PAGE 9

DELIGHT AND DESPAIR

MI makes the playoffs; heartbreak for RCB

SPORT » PAGE 15

Woman dies after car gets submerged in underpass

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The car being pulled out, in Bengaluru on Sunday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Torrential rains and hailstorm which battered Bengaluru on Sunday claimed the life of 23-year-old Bhanurekha, after the car she was travelling in was submerged in water in an underpass at K.R. Circle in the heart of the city. The incident occurred a stone's throw away from Vidhana Soudha a day after the new government led by Siddaramaiah was sworn in.

A resident of Pragathi Nagar near Electronics City, Bhanurekha was an employee at Infosys.

She was out with her family, who were visiting her from Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh on a sightseeing trip, when the vacation turned into a nightmare.

The family had booked a cab for sightseeing and had their last stop at Cubbon Park, which was closed due to rain. On their way back home, at the underpass of K.R. Circle, persuaded by an autorickshaw driver, Harisha, who was driving the cab, drove into the underpass.

However, the water's deceptive depth, which was around eight feet, resulted in the car floating and water soon gushed into the car from all sides.

While the driver and all the other passengers made it out safely, Bhanurekha, who was sitting in the rear seat of the car, did not make it.

She was declared dead at St. Martha's hospital where she was taken after the fire and emergency personnel carried out a rescue operation.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah visited the spot and the hospital.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 3

SBI's U-turn: no ID card, slip to swap ₹2,000 notes

The RBI had not issued instructions to banks to collect identity proofs for exchanging notes, sources say, adding that the Finance Ministry had intervened to make SBI change its directive

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

In a sudden volte-face following a huge public outcry, the State Bank of India, the country's biggest bank, on Sunday withdrew its decision on the mandatory filling of a slip for exchange of ₹2,000 bank notes at its branches.

"In partial modification of instructions, it has been decided that the facility of exchange of ₹2,000 denomination bank notes to all members of the public up to limit of ₹20,000 at a time will be allowed without obtaining any requisition slip as per the format attached in Annuxure III," said a letter by SBI Chief General Manager (Operations) S. Muralidharan.

"Further, no identity proof is required to be submitted by the tenderer at the time of exchange," the letter issued to SBI branches said. "Hence, Annexure III which is attached to E-Circular dated 19.05.2023 stands withdrawn immediately. There is no change in other instruments given in the E-Circular," it added.

On Friday, the same SBI office had issued a letter saying, "Deposit of ₹2,000 banknotes into accounts maintained with our bank will be allowed in the usual manner, that is, without restrictions and subject to compliance with extant Know Your Customer (KYC) norms and other applicable statutory requirements." SBI's KYC norms require a requisition slip and identity proofs.

"The branches are also advised to comply with Cash Transaction Reporting (CT) and Suspicious Transaction Reporting (STR) requirements, where applicable," it had stated. There shall not be any limit on the quantity and value of the ₹2,000 denomination notes to be credited into the account maintained with the bank, it had said.

The Reserve Bank of India had not issued any instructions to banks to collect identity proofs of tenderers swapping the ₹2,000 notes. Sources also say that the condition had been withdrawn following the intervention of the Finance Ministry after the public hue and cry. It is likely that no other bank will ask for slip or proofs.

Cash flow

The State Bank of India has issued instructions to all its branches regarding exchange of ₹2,000 notes

- No requisition slip is required for exchange of ₹2,000 notes up to a limit of ₹20,000 at a time
- No identity proof is required to be submitted by the tenderer at the time of exchange
- The RBI on May 19 announced withdrawal of ₹2,000 currency notes from circulation but gave public time till September 30 to either deposit such notes in accounts or exchange them at banks.
- The facility for exchange will be available from May 23

NEARBY

Talk on Cabinet expansion after session

BENGALURU
Consultations over expansion of the Cabinet are expected to resume after the special legislature session comes to an end on Wednesday. The Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister will head back to Delhi to meet the Central leaders.

» Page 6

We'll probe previous regime's scams: M.B. Patil

BENGALURU
Newly sworn-in Minister M.B. Patil has said that the new government will investigate scams involving the previous regime on a case-to-case basis.

» Page 6

EDUCATION PLUS »
PAGES 4, 5 & 6

Countries should respect sovereignty and territorial integrity: PM Modi at G-7 meet

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Paying respects: Narendra Modi visits the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum in Hiroshima with other leaders on Sunday. ANI

Unrest in any part of the world affects all the countries of the global community, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday at the G-7 meeting in Hiroshima.

Speaking at the 'Working Session 9' of the G-7 summit, Mr. Modi reiterated India's commitment to do "everything" to bring an end to the war in Ukraine and said all countries should "respect" sovereignty and territorial integrity of the member states of the United Nations.

"It is necessary that all sides should respect the UN Charter, international law and nation-states should respect each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Everyone should raise their voice against one-sided attempts to change status quo. India has always felt that all tension and disputes should be resolved in a peaceful manner, through dialogue, and if a solution is reached through dialogue then that should be respected," Mr. Modi said in his remarks that came shortly after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky made his presentation at the G-7 summit. It is significant that PM Modi spoke about territorial integrity of "all countries" a day after he met President Zelensky.

Speaking ahead of Mr. Modi, the Ukrainian President focused on the ongoing military activities in his country, and called upon the G-7 members and partner countries to support Ukraine in the fight against Russia.

Indicating at his discussion with Mr. Modi and other neutral countries, Mr. Zelensky said that Kyiv is trying to convince "certain leaders" about the position of Ukraine in the war with Russia. Mr. Modi in his remarks said, "Today we heard President Zelensky. I met him yesterday. I do not consider the current situation (in Ukraine) a political or economic issue. I think it is a pressing humanitarian matter and a matter concerning human values. We have maintained from the beginning that dialogue and diplomacy are the only way out of this and India will do everything that is required to resolve the current conflict."

"Global peace, stability and prosperity are part of the common goals of us all. In today's inter-connected world, unrest in any region affects every country. The developing countries are paying a heavy price because of the food, fuel and fertiliser crisis that were triggered by the current global situation," Mr. Modi said.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Kuki groups demand separation from Manipur

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Kuki insurgent groups are going to press for a separate administration and equal political status for the Kuki-Zo community, separate from Manipur but within the Union of India, one of the leaders told.

"We want to seal our borders and want to be out of Manipur. Earlier we had almost settled the deal for territorial councils," the leader said.

FULL REPORT ON » PAGE 11

RAMAIAH UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES
UGC U/S 2(F) OF UGC ACT 1956
Applied Brilliance Makes all the Difference
62 YEARS
RAMAIAH GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS

ADMISSIONS OPEN 2023-24

Faculty of Engineering & Technology
B.Tech. | M.Tech.

Faculty of Art & Design
B.Des. • Product Design • Fashion Design • Interaction Design
M.Des. • Product Design • Fashion Design

Faculty of Mathematical & Physical Sciences
B.Sc. (Hons.)
• Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics
M.Sc.
• Physics • Mathematics • Analytical Chemistry • Organic Chemistry • Industrial Chemistry

Faculty of Hospitality Management and Catering Technology
BHM Bachelor of Hotel Management

Faculty of Pharmacy
B.Pharm. Bachelor of Pharmacy
Pharm.D Doctor of Pharmacy
M.Pharm.
• Pharmacognosy • Pharmacy Practice • Pharmaceutics • Pharmacology • Pharmaceutical Chemistry

Faculty of Dental Sciences
BDS Bachelor of Dental Surgery
MDS Master of Dental Surgery

Ramaiah Medical College
MBBS | MD/MS | DM/M.Ch

Ramaiah College of Physiotherapy
BPT | MPT

PG Diploma in Facility Management

Ph.D. Programs

Faculty of Life & Allied Health Sciences
B.Sc. (Hons.) • Biotechnology • Food Processing and Technology
B.Sc. (Hons.) • Cardiac Care Technology • Optometry • Dialysis Therapy Technology • Medical Radiology and Imaging Technology • Anesthesia and Operation Theatre Technology
M.Sc. • Biotechnology • Molecular & Cellular Biology • Food Science & Technology • Food Nutrition and Dietetics
MHA Masters in Hospital Administration
MPH Master of Public Health

School of Social Sciences
BA / B.Sc. (Hons.) in Economics
B.Sc. (Hons.) • Data Sciences & Analytics • Psychology
M.A. in Public Policy

Faculty of Management and Commerce
B.Com. (Hons.) • Accounting & Finance
BBA
MBA
• Marketing Management • Human Resource Management • Operations Management • Financial Management • Small Business & Entrepreneurship • Business Analytics • Banking & Financial Services • Hospitality Management • Pharma Business Management

School of Law
B.Sc. LL.B. (Hons.) | B.A. LL.B. (Hons.)

Ramaiah Institute of Nursing Education & Research
B.Sc. Nursing | M.Sc. Nursing
Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing

Other Programs B.Voc. in • Product Design & Modelling • Culinary Operation • Mechatronics • Retail Management

All UG,PG and Ph.D. Programs are approved by Statutory Bodies

Ranked As... Ramaiah Medical College A+ | nirf ALL INDIA RANKING 2022 | 38th Ramaiah Medical College | 14th Faculty of Dental Sciences | 62nd Faculty of Pharmacy | ARIIA ATAL RANKING OF INSTITUTIONS ON INNOVATION ACHIEVEMENTS

APPLY NOW RUAS ADMISSIONS TEST AT
UG & PG Programmes
For details and registration scan this QR Code
(OR) visit website: https://admissions.msruas.ac.in/

Gnanagangothri Campus (GGC): University House, New BEL Road, MSR Nagar, Bengaluru - 560 054.
Ramaiah Technology Campus (RTC), Peenya : #470-P, Peenya Industrial Area, Peenya 4th Phase, Bengaluru - 560 058.

801 000 4444
admissions23@msruas.ac.in
www.msruas.ac.in

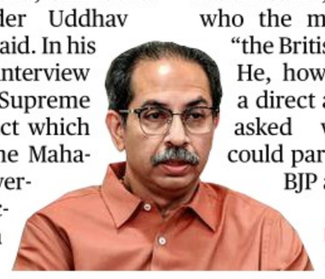
BJP is opportunistic, dictatorial: Uddhav

EXCLUSIVE

Varghese K. George
Abhinay Deshpande
MUMBAI

People are voting against the BJP wherever there is a strong Opposition party, and the BJP may resort to communal polarisation in the coming days to recover its lost ground, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray said. In his first media interview after the Supreme Court verdict which held that the Maharashtra Governor's direction for a floor test of his government in June 2022 was illegal, the former CM said "people were shocked that an illegal government" was in power.

In a no-holds-barred conversation at his residence 'Matoshree', Mr. Thackeray accused his former ally, the BJP, of being dictatorial, and opportunistic on questions of Hindutva. He said slavery was the same, regardless of who the master was – "the British or the BJP." He, however, evaded a direct answer when asked whether he could partner with the BJP again.



INTERVIEW ON » PAGE 11

Kejriwal reaches out to 'allies' to stall Delhi civil service Bill

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Preparing for a pushback on the Centre's Ordinance to create a National Capital Civil Service Authority that gives Delhi's Lieutenant-Governor the final say on transfers and postings of civil servants, Delhi Chief Minister and Aam Aadmi Party leader Arvind Kejriwal is reaching out to the Opposition leaders to stall the Bill from replacing the Ordinance in the Rajya Sabha. As the numbers stand in the Upper House, if the Congress backs him, a united Opposition can make it difficult for the Centre to get the Bill through.

Arvind Kejriwal with Nitish Kumar in New Delhi.

On Sunday, Mr. Kejriwal met Bihar CM and Janata Dal(U) leader Nitish Kumar and Deputy CM and Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav. On Tuesday, he is flying to Kolkata to meet Trinamool Congress chief Mamata Banerjee. The next day, he is headed to Mumbai on a two-day trip to meet Nationalist Congress Party patriarch Sharad Pawar and former Maharashtra Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray.

The Centre on Friday promulgated the Ordinance creating a National Capital Civil Service Authority by amending the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991. This authority will be headed by the Delhi Chief Minister and will have the Chief Secretary and the Principal Home Secretary as members. While the authority can make suggestions regarding transfers and tenures of bureaucrats, Lieutenant-Governor will be the final arbiter.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Can Nadal battle the pain and retire on his terms?

When Nadal burst onto the scene, there were questions regarding how sustainable his style of play would be in the long run. His willingness to "suffer" and show no mercy on himself in order to keep a seemingly finished rally going with his astounding court coverage was quite evident from the beginning of his career

TENNIS

Nihit Sachdeva

The French Open has a build-up unlike the other Slams. It takes time, even for the best in the business, to adjust to the slow and slippery clay after playing on hard courts for the first three months of the year. April onwards, leading up to Roland-Garros, the ATP Tour had scheduled seven 250 (Houston, Marrakech, Estoril, Munich, Banja Luka, Geneva, Lyon), one 500 (Barcelona) and three Masters 1000 (Monte Carlo, Madrid and Rome) events this year.

'Home' turf: Ever since he mesmerised the Parisian crowd with his dazzling performance as a teenager in 2005, Nadal has been a constant presence at Roland-Garros. AFP

The pertinent question

However, the conversation regarding the clay Major had begun in January itself when Rafael Nadal, defending Australian Open champion, went down 4-6, 4-6, 5-7 to USA's Mackenzie "Mackie" McDonald in the second round in Melbourne while also sustaining a hip injury – will he make it to Paris, the city where he has lifted the coveted *La Coupe des Mousquetaires* a record 14 times?

The Spaniard, who turns 37 next month, has had bad luck in Australia with injuries in 2010 (right knee), 2011 (hamstring), 2013 (stomach virus), 2014 (back) and 2018 (right leg). But unlike those seasons, Nadal's return to court kept getting delayed this year as he continued to recover from the hip flexor issue and missed all clay events.

Eventually, last Thursday, in a press conference at his academy in Manacor, Mallorca, the former World No. 1 said, "The evolution of the injury I sustained in Australia has not gone as I would have liked. I have lost goals along the way, and Roland-Garros becomes impossible."

Nadal had twice missed his French Open debut – with a right elbow injury in 2003 and stress fracture in 2004 – until he finally mesmerised the Parisian crowd with his dazzling performance as a teenager in 2005. Since then, he has been a constant presence at Roland-Garros with his phenomenal record extending year-by-year.

This time, in his absence, the men's field has only two former champions – Serbia's Novak Djokovic (2016, 2021) and Switzerland's Stan Wawrinka (2015).

Top seed Carlos Alcaraz, who was a two-year-old when compatriot Nadal won in 2005, and other players like Stefanos Tsitsipas, Holger Rune and Casper Ruud will fancy their chances.

Nadal, however, expects the tournament to be "a big success". "Roland-Garros will always be Roland-Garros with or without me... there will be a new champion."

Nadal's body finally says 'no'

When Nadal had burst onto the scene, there were questions regarding how sustainable his style of play would be in the long run.

His willingness to "suffer" and show no mercy on himself in order to keep a seemingly finished rally going with his astounding court coverage was quite evident from the beginning of his career. While he did prove his doubters wrong and managed to extend his career to the wrong side of 30s, the hip injury might just be it.

"You can´t keep demanding more and more from your body because there comes a moment when your body raises a white flag. Even though your head wants to keep going, your body says this is as far as it goes," he said.

Since making his Grand Slam debut at Wimbledon in 2003, the Spaniard has missed 13 Majors with this year's French Open and Wimbledon the latest additions. This list is expected to grow longer with Nadal having no plans of playing in the coming months.

'Big Three' era to end soon?

Only eight months ago, Nadal and fellow 22-time Major winner Djokovic had played alongside Roger Federer at the Laver Cup in the Swiss maestro's final professional appearance on a tennis court. With the Spaniard ruling himself out probably for the rest of the 2023 season, this marks another significant point in the 'Big Three' era.

Djokovic, too, turns 36 on Monday (May 22) and while he still looks in shape to compete at the highest level, the Serbian has recently faced issues with his elbow. He also played the entire 2023 Australian Open with a three-centimetre tear in his hamstring.

2024, the year Nadal says goodbye?

Nadal, who became a father last year, hopes to give himself a chance to retire on his own terms by recovering in time for the 2024 season, probably his last on the Tour.

"I don't deserve to end my career like this, in a press conference," he said. He wishes to play all those tournaments which have made him "happy".

Comebacks in tennis after long injury layoffs are not easy and the Spaniard knows it. He has experienced it many times in the past. His 2022 Australian Open title had come after missing the second half of the 2021 season due to chronic pain in his left foot, a condition known as the Muller-Weiss syndrome.

However, if he comes back next year, there will be the overbearing emotion of playing every event for the last time. Whether he will be able to shake off that feeling, focus on the task at hand and try winning another Slam remains to be seen.

The year 2024 also brings with it an opportunity for Nadal to play at Roland-Garros twice in the space of a few months since the tennis event of the Paris Olympics is also scheduled to take place there post the French Open.

Nadal, who has previously clinched gold medals in men's singles at Beijing Olympics (2008) and men's doubles at the Rio Games (2016), said, "The Paris Olympics is one of the competitions I want to be at. I don't know if that will be my last tournament."

Battles with injuries off the court have run parallel with Nadal's duels on court. Can he do it one last time?

Grand Slams Nadal has missed since his 2003 debut

- **2004 FRENCH OPEN:** Stress fracture in ankle
- **2004 WIMBLEDON:** Stress fracture in ankle
- **2006 AUSTRALIAN OPEN:** Foot injury
- **2009 WIMBLEDON:** Knee injury
- **2012 US OPEN:** Knee injury
- **2013 AUSTRALIAN OPEN:** Stomach virus
- **2014 US OPEN:** Right wrist injury
- **2016 WIMBLEDON:** Left wrist injury
- **2020 US OPEN:** COVID-19
- **2021 WIMBLEDON:** Foot injury
- **2021 US OPEN:** Foot injury
- **2023 FRENCH OPEN:** Hip injury
- **2023 WIMBLEDON:** Hip injury

Premier dream eludes Arsenal despite coming agonisingly close

Neeladri Bhattacharjee

Arsenal remained on top of the Premier League table for 248 days. For eight months, it seemed that it was on its way to winning the league after nearly 20 years. Instead, that period became the most for a team which failed to win the title in English top-flight history.

Arsenal crumbled, lost steam in the crucial phase of the tournament and ultimately lost the title race to Manchester City.

Pep Guardiola's men have been a thorn in Arsenal's flesh, beating it in every competition since July 2020.

This season's decline, rather a lack of success, started after the Leeds United game which Arsenal won 4-1 on April 1.

In the next three games, Arsenal dropped six points after sharing the honours with Liverpool, West Ham and Southampton.

Two of those games saw the Gunners draw from winning positions after equalisers from Roberto Firmino and Jarrod Bowen respectively.

Looking ahead: Arsenal's title hopes may have crumbled but manager Arteta will have plenty of positives to draw from, starting with the performances of wingers Martinelli and Saka, who troubled opposition defences no end, and captain Odegaard building the attacks. He would, however, wonder if things would have panned out differently had Zinchenko and Jesus not been injured at crucial stages. AP, REUTERS

Out of breath

Mikel Arteta's side huffed and puffed, and somehow managed to draw against relegation-threatened Southampton. By the time it came face-to-face with City, it was out of breath.

The result: a 1-4 mauling by Manchester City.

Arsenal – still leading by two points at that stage – seemed to have moved on with wins over Chelsea and Newcastle United.

But Roberto De Zerbi's Brighton and Hove Albion, freshly wounded after a 1-5 rout against Everton, hit back with a 3-0 win over the Gunners.

That was the 'dementor's kiss' for the London-based side and its fortunes nosedived with consecutive losses.

In 32 Premier League games, Arsenal had three defeats. It had as many in its next six.

The last one, against Nottingham Forest, handed the title to City and saved Forest from relegation.

For Arsenal, it meant that the title dream was officially over.

Injury woes mid-season

To say that Arsenal stumbled just because of morale would be an oversimplification as Arteta's boys were near-perfect for most part of the season.

The team lost its No. 9 Gabriel Jesus to a knee injury mid-season and Leandro Trossard – the former Brighton wide winger – stepped up to fill the void.

The London-based club found a leader in Martin Odegaard, who excelled in absorbing pressure and starting attacks from the No. 10 position.

Oleksandr Zinchenko combined with Gabriel Martinelli to keep it going along the left channel while Bukayo Saka and Ben White were the counterparts on the other side.

Hardly had Jesus returned after recuperating from injury that Zinchenko and Martinelli were sidelined with calf and ankle injuries respectively.

The injury list already had defenders Takehiro Tomiyasu and William Saliba while midfielder Mohamed Elneny was out the entire season.

Arteta – with a handful of games left – saw injury and confidence dent the title dream and at the City Ground in Nottinghamshire, he could just sigh and call it a "really sad day".

The lost points

Up to the Leeds game, the Gunners earned all 21 points from their previous seven games. Off the next seven, they got to just six. Those lost points made all the difference.

This season's dream may be over, but there are huge positives that Arsenal can build on.

It has qualified for the Champions League after six years – and for the first time under Arteta – and that will benefit it financially in the summer transfer window.

Going eye to eye

It also managed to look in the eye of a juggernaut like City – which has now won the title for the last three years – and kept it at bay for the most part.

Arsenal, after decades of heartbreaks, learnt to believe this season. Despite the agony of coming so close and failing this time, there will be belief that it can rise up, go again and realise the Premier League dream next season.

PRESIDENCY GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS

BENGALURU

GAIN MORE KNOWLEDGE
REACH GREATER HEIGHTS

ICSE RESULTS 2023

PRESIDENCY SCHOOL
NANDINI LAYOUT

★ SCHOOL TOPPERS ★

TOTAL APPEARED: 131 DISTINCTIONS: 129

SUBJECT TOPPERS

ENGLISH 2 TOPPERS

Aryaman D S	100
Alonzo A Kevin	100
Ashwika S	100
Dhatri M	100
Dakshesh J	100
Dakshath P Gowda	100
Goutham U Shetty	100
Impana M C	100
Isshita Bhattacharya	100
Kushi Naidu B	100
Kushal U	100
Likhith D	100
Mohammad Hasan Ziyan	100
Maahika Ajay Kumar	100
Madhumitha J	100
Manvitha N	100
Prajwal P	100
Pranati Prasad	100
Rahul D	100
Saanvi Mallesha	100
Shashank M	100
Sinchan N Kalal	100
Sripad B K	100

MATHEMATICS TOPPERS

Anika Patil	100
Ashish J Kallimani	100
Dhatri M	100
Isshita Bhattacharya	100
Jeevan N	100
Likith Kumar K	100
Likhith D	100
Madhumitha J	100
Medha Gangadhara	100
Nikkitha S	100
Nischith M	100
Ruchitha L	100
Rahul D	100
Shreephal N Joijode	100
Shrish S Naik	100
Sripad B K	100

COMPUTER TOPPERS

Aryaman D S	100
Anika Patil	100
Aarush Makal	100
Adhithyah S Aithal	100
Dhatri M	100
Dakshesh J	100
Dakshath P Gowda	100
Impana M C	100
Isshita Bhattacharya	100
Jeevan N	100
Karthik K Shetty	100
Kushal U	100
Madhumitha J	100
Medha Gangadhara	100
Nischith M	100
Pranav P Jahagirdar	100
Prajwal D	100
Prajwal P	100
Pranati Prasad	100
Rahul D	100
Rahul Ragavan	100
Shashank Sreenivas	100
Samarth Kulkarni	100
Shashank M	100
Shreephal N Joijode	100
Sinchan N Kalal	100
Sripad B K	100
Sahana Desai	100
Srikrishna S Udupa	100
Satyendra Nayak K	100
Vaibhav K Madhyastha	100

CHEMISTRY TOPPERS

Dhatri M	100
Kushal U	100
Shashank M	100

ART TOPPERS

Nishkaa G N	100

SL KANNADA TOPPERS

Dhatri M	99
Kushal U	99
Sripad B K	99

HISTORY/CIVICS TOPPERS

Amulya R Shetty	100
Anagha Guruprasad	100
Adhithyah S Aithal	100
Ananth Hariharan R	100
Ashwika S	100
Chandish J	100
Dhanush S Gowda	100
Devna Erath Sunil	100
Dhatri M	100
Dishanth T Asuti	100
Dakshesh J	100
Dakshath P Gowda	100
Impana M C	100
Isshita Bhattacharya	100
Jeevan N	100
Kruthika M Sakhare	100
Karthik K Shetty	100
Kushal U	100
Likhith S	100
Mohammed Hasan Ziyan	100
Mohammed Ayan Ahmed	100
Maahika Ajay Kumar	100
Moksha D	100
Madhumitha J	100
Manvitha N	100
Medha Gangadhara	100
Mohammed Shanan Hasan	100
Nikkitha S	100
Nischith M	100
Vihaan Sachin	100
Pranav P Jahagirdar	100
Prajwal D	100
Prajwal P	100
Pooja P	100
Pranati Prasad	100
Ruchitha L	100
G S Sai Saran	100
Sathvik Bharadwaj D H	100
Saanvi Mallesha	100
Srishty S	100
Shashank Sreenivas	100
Samarth Kulkarni	100
Shashank M	100
Shreephal N Joijode	100
Sinchan N Kalal	100
Sripad B K	100
Srujan Siddeshwar Yelamali	100
Sahana Desai	100
Thanush S Devang	100
Thraya Narayan	100
Varun S	100
Vaibhav K Madhyastha	100

GEOGRAPHY TOPPERS

Aryaman D S	100
Aarush Makal	100
Mohammed Ayan Ahmed	100
Madhumitha J	100
Medha Gangadhara	100
Mohammed Shanan Hasan	100
Nischith M	100
Pranav P Jahagirdar	100
Pranavi R Jawari	100
Samarth Kulkarni	100
Shashank M	100
Sinchan N Kalal	100
Satyendra Nayak K	100

BIOLOGY TOPPERS

Aryaman D S	100
Dakshath P Gowda	100
Kushal U	100
Mohammad Hasan Ziyan	100
Maahika Ajay Kumar	100
Saanvi Mallesha	100
Shashank Sreenivas	100
Shashank M	100
Sinchan N Kalal	100

PHYSICAL EDUCATION TOPPERS

Mohammed Hasan Ziyan	100
Srujan Siddeshwar Yelamali	100

SL HINDI TOPPERS

Madhumita J	99
Pooja P	99

www.presidencynlo.org

ST. PAUL'S ENGLISH SCHOOL
JP NAGAR

★ SCHOOL TOPPERS ★

TOTAL APPEARED: 178 DISTINCTIONS: 169

SUBJECT TOPPERS

ENGLISH 1 TOPPER

Saanvi Changti	98

ENGLISH 2 TOPPERS

Saanvi S Gowda	100
Avaneesh Rajesh Shetty	100
Tanmayi Bhanu Chand	100
J S Nithin Reddy	100
Dhriti Muzumdar	100
Duvvuri Sankara Pranav	100
Pragnya S Shivakote	100
Amoolya Kandra	100
Ira Himanshu	100
Aniket Muzumdar	100
Akash Muthanna M P	100
Ananya H S	100
Alifiya Shabbar Zakir	100
Hambal Labeeb	100
Mridini T A	100
Rishab Apin	100
Neha Prashanth Danda	100
Shiv Sarvan Sistla	100
Krithika Laxmi Rao	100
Kushal R	100
Gokul S	100
Sakshi M Shettar	100

MATHEMATICS TOPPERS

Sameera Kristipati	100
Tanmayi Bhanu Chand	100
Shraddha Setty	100
Tarun H	100
Aneesh Krishna S	100
Rituparna Jena	100
Amoolya Kandra	100
Navya Dubey	100
Ira Himanshu	100
Imad Ur Rahman	100
Aniket Muzumdar	100
Jana Vanshika	100
Sachita Umesh	100
Alifiya Shabbar Zakir	100
Tanvi Tanista Sahoo	100
Kushal R	100
Disha A	100
Yuvan T	100

GEOGRAPHY TOPPERS

Tanmayi Bhanu Chand	100
Sidhanth Mahesh Rajapur	100
Sai Raghave Mandyam	100
Dhriti Muzumdar	100
Aniket Muzumdar	100
Sachita Umesh	100
Hambal Labeeb	100
Samarth B Sudhir	100

COMPUTER TOPPERS

Avaneesh Rajesh Shetty	100
Aryan B Turavi	100
Sidhanth Mahesh Rajapur	100
Dhriti Muzumdar	100
Akanksh Hemanth Tejasvi	100
Karunya Dwaralu Girish	100
Pavithra R Kamala	100
Ananya Yogesh	100
Rituparna Jena	100
Navya Dubey	100
Pradhan L	100
Imad Ur Rahman	100
Adithya Venkat	100
Aniket Muzumdar	100
Sachita Umesh	100
Alifiya Shabbar Zakir	100
Nithyashree U	100
Neha Prashanth Danda	100
Tanvi Tanista Sahoo	100
Anusha Agarwal	100
Amrutha Naik	100
Koduri Sri Ananya	100
Harshith Kumar Aruru	100
Kushal R	100
Isaac Sharma Aribam	100
Rohith Umanath	100
Shreya Sadashivan	100

INDIAN DANCE TOPPERS

Aastha Sumant Awate	98

SL HINDI TOPPERS

Ira Himanshu	99
Anusha Agarwal	99

SL KANNADA TOPPERS

Saanvi S Gowda	99
Aryan B Turavi	99
Dhriti Muzumdar	99
Aneesh Krishna S	99
Pragnya S Shivakote	99
Karunya Dwaralu Girish	99
Pradhan L	99
Ananya H S	99
Pruthvish R	99

SL SANSKRIT TOPPERS

Tanmayi Bhanu Chand	99
Sidhanth Mahesh Rajapur	99
Akanksh Hemanth Tejasvi	99
Duvvuri Sankara Pranav	99
Ananya Yogesh	99
Amoolya Kandra	99
Madhavan Rengasamy	99

PHYSICS TOPPERS

Tanmayi Bhanu Chand	99

CHEMISTRY TOPPERS

Tanmayi Bhanu Chand	100
Ananya Yogesh	100
Rituparna Jena	100
Navya Dubey	100
Neha Prashanth Danda	100

BIOLOGY TOPPERS

Saanvi Changti	100
Tanmayi Bhanu Chand	100
Sidhanth Mahesh Rajapur	100
Chinmayi Shivayogi B	100
Navya Dubey	100
Anagha Indrakanti	100
Khushi A	100
Madhavan Rengasamy	100
Mohammed Farhan	100
Adithyan Suresh Nair	100
Neha Prashanth Danda	100
Amrutha Naik	100
Rishabh Kumar S	100
Bayyinah Babar Khan	100

HISTORY/CIVICS TOPPERS

Sameera Kristipati	100
Tanmayi Bhanu Chand	100
Sidhanth Mahesh Rajapur	100
Dhriti Muzumdar	100
Akanksh Hemanth Tejasvi	100
Ananya Yogesh	100
Rituparna Jena	100
Amoolya Kandra	100
Navya Dubey	100
Ira Himanshu	100
Imad Ur Rahman	100
Aniket Muzumdar	100
N P Tharun Pranav	100
Huzefa Yusuf Mandleywala	100
Adithyan Suresh Nair	100
Neha Prashanth Danda	100
Tanvi Tanista Sahoo	100
Anusha Agarwal	100
Amrutha Naik	100
Sheik Farhan Basha	100
Rithwik Balan	100
Gokul S	100
Yuvan T	100
K S Ashish	100
Aaradhya Mathur	100

PHYSICAL EDUCATION TOPPERS

Jyothula Sitharam Satvick	100
Abhishek Srivatsa	100
Shiv Sarvan Sistla	100
Nirav S Gowda	100
Nagappan Arun	100

ART TOPPERS

Gopika A M	99

www.spes-bengaluru.org

PRESIDENCY SCHOOL
RT NAGAR

★ SCHOOL TOPPERS ★

TOTAL APPEARED: 145 DISTINCTIONS: 139

SUBJECT TOPPERS

ENGLISH 1 TOPPER

Vedant Santosh Shinde	98

ENGLISH 2 TOPPERS

Deepa Pal	100
Soham Milind Joglekar	100
Vedant Santosh Shinde	100
Meghana M G	100
Sashank Sekhar Sabat	100
Arya S Aralaguppe	100
Bhuvanesh R	100
Jhanvi Bai B Manohar	100
Zahra Afthab	100
Kubra Sama M	100

HISTORY/CIVICS TOPPERS

Harrman Bhogal	100
Deepa Pal	100
Soham Milind Joglekar	100
Adithya S	100
Meghana M G	100
Karan Koder	100
Amish Kumar Mandal	100
Sashank Sekhar Sabat	100
Deepak Kamalaksha Nayak	100
Arya S Aralaguppe	100
Navya Yapamakula Mahesh	100
Lahari Arun Kumar	100
Hithaish G	100
Amrita Ananth Kini	100
Noor Safiya A	100
Ananya Aravinda Raju	100
Zaina Malak	100
Harini N	100
Sharvani P	100
Zainab Khanum	100
Janya Rihan Jinuj	100
Rida Zainab	100
Dharani M	100
Misbaah Khanum	100

BIOLOGY TOPPERS

Vedant Santosh Shinde	100
Adithya S	100
Meghana M G	100
Arya S Aralaguppe	100
Navya Yapamakula Mahesh	100
Anish Gundala	100
Zaina Malak	100
Amulya J Shetty	100
Zainab Khanum	100
Janya Rihan Jinuj	100
Shruthika P	100
Muhammed Yunus	100
Ridhviraj Anil Rikke	100

P E TOPPERS

Adithya S	100
Arya S Aralaguppe	100
Navya Yapamakula Mahesh	100

SL HINDI TOPPERS

Harrman Bhogal	98
Vedant Santosh Shinde	98
Mohammed Rayed	98
Jhanvi Bai B Manohar	98

SL KANNADA TOPPERS

Arya S Aralaguppe	99
Lahari Arun Kumar	99
Amrita Ananth Kini	99
Ishita Mohan K G	99
Amulya J Shetty	99

GEOGRAPHY TOPPERS

Adithya S	100
Karan Koder	100
Amrita Ananth Kini	100
Anish Gundala	100

MATHEMATICS TOPPERS

Harrman Bhogal	100
Deepa Pal	100
Soham Milind Joglekar	100
Adithya S	100
Meghana M G	100
Karan Koder	100
Amish Kumar Mandal	100
Sashank Sekhar Sabat	100
Deepak Kamalaksha Nayak	100
Navya Yapamakula Mahesh	100
Anish Gundala	100
Mohammed Rayed	100
Zaina Malak	100
Bhuvan S Mulka	100

PHYSICS TOPPERS

Adithya S	98

CHEMISTRY TOPPERS

Deepa Pal	100
Soham Milind Joglekar	100
Karan Koder	100
Arya S Aralaguppe	100
Zaina Malak	100

COMPUTER TOPPERS

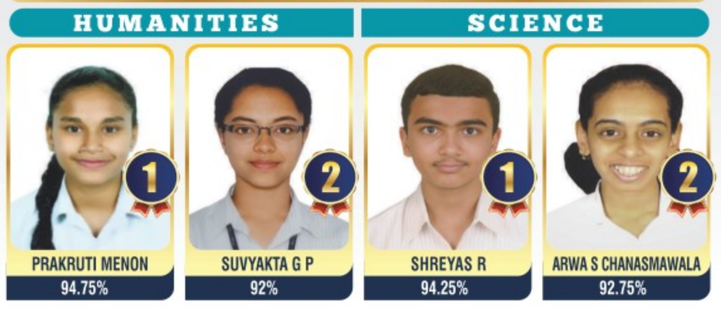
Harrman Bhogal	100
Deepa Pal	100
Soham Milind Joglekar	100
Vedant Santosh Shinde	100
Meghana M G	100
Karan Koder	100
Amish Kumar Mandal	100
Sashank Sekhar Sabat	100
Amrita Ananth Kini	100
Anish Gundala	100
Mohammed Rayed	100
Ishita Mohan Kumar Gowda	100
Akasha A Prasad	100
Ketana M Rao	100
Harsh Singh	100

www.presidencyschoolrtn.org

ST. PAUL'S ENGLISH SCHOOL

★ ISC SCHOOLS TOPPERS ★

HUMANITIES | SCIENCE



A BG-BGE

Did Neanderthals shape our noses?

A recent study in *Communications Biology*, led by researchers from the University College London and Fudan University, adds to a growing and significant body of evidence on diseases and traits in modern humans that have been influenced by genomic loci from the Neanderthals and the Denisovans

Vinod Scaria
Sridhar Sivasubbu

EXPLAINER

The human nose is an intriguing feature that holds significance in various aspects of our lives. Beyond its practical function, to facilitate our breathing and sense of smell, the nose has long been associated with notions of beauty, deception, and other aspects of historical significance. Different cultures and societies have their own standards of beauty, and the shape, size, and proportion of the nose have often contributed to these ideals. We can also observe the importance of the nose in art, literature, and other remnants of ancient civilisations.

Identification of facial 'landmarks' and computing the distance between them has been one of the key ingredients of facial recognition, which is widely used around the world to recognise and identify faces, in biometric-based security services, and in a wide variety of other day-to-day applications, including, importantly, surveillance.

Computational methodologies that can automate these measurements to be faster and more efficient have been developed in recent years and are widely used. For example, the 'DigiYatra' application developed by the Government of India and launched in December 2022 is widely used in major airports in India to authenticate passengers' check-ins.

The genes behind the human nose?

A recent study - published in *Communications Biology*, led by researchers from the University College London and Fudan University and with contributions from researchers across the world - used 2D images and measures of the distance between facial landmarks, computed in an automated fashion, in over 6,000 Latin American individuals as the basis for a genetic association study.

This way, they identified 42 new genetic loci associated with the human nose. (A 'locus', plural 'loci', is the position of a particular gene on the human chromosome.) Of these, 26 could be replicated in other populations, including Asians, Europeans, and Africans. One of these loci included a location called 1q32.3 (short for chromosome 1, short arm, locus 32.3), which is associated with the height of the human nose.

This genetic locus was previously shown to have been contributed by the Neanderthals. The present study adds to this evidence, suggesting that specific variants in the genetic loci are associated with midface height. This chromosomal locus encodes for a gene named activating transcription factor 3 (ATF3) .

The strongest association for the genetic loci indeed came from a regulatory region in the ATF3 gene. While the researchers have not suggested that the ATF3 gene is directly involved in the development of the skull, this gene is regulated by a gene called FOXL2, which has been implicated in the development of the skull and the face. Additionally, mutations in the FOXL2 gene can result in facial abnormalities.

Mirror to humans: Swedish scientist Svante Paabo poses with a replica of a Neanderthal skeleton at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany, October 3, 2022. AP

Why does nose shape matter?

The shape of the nose could have evolutionary implications in the better survival of humans, possibly helping them adapt to climates prevalent in the time of our ancestors. There is also speculation that changes in the shape and the size of the nose could have affected the landmark's ability to maintain certain temperatures and humidity within.

Prehistoric humans and Neanderthals are believed to have interbred, exchanging genetic material and contributing to the genomes of present-day humans, thus shaping human destiny to this day. This is also known as the introgression of genomic sequences. Researchers have estimated that this interbreeding occurred approximately 70,000-100,000 years ago, leaving a lasting genetic legacy in the human population.

The evolutionary geneticist Svante Paabo made significant contributions to the study of Neanderthal genomes and the transfer of genetic information (introgression) between the archaic, long-extinct hominids, the Neanderthals, the Denisovans, and modern-day humans. (Denisovans are a subspecies of archaic humans who lived until around 30,000 years ago.)

Dr. Paabo's efforts to understand archaic hominid interbreeding have earned him recognition in the scientific community, and won him the prestigious Nobel Prize for Physiology and Medicine in 2022. He has provided key insights into the evolutionary history of our species and the genetic contributions we have inherited from our ancient relatives.

> Dr. Pääbo's efforts to understand archaic hominid interbreeding won him the Nobel Prize for Physiology and Medicine in 2022.

Other genes from Neanderthals?

The present study adds to a growing and significant body of evidence on diseases and traits in modern humans that have been influenced by genomic loci from the Neanderthals and the Denisovans.

A mass of emerging evidence suggests that the Neanderthal genomes could also have contributed to the way we respond to pathogens as well as defined our risk of developing a number of skin and blood conditions and some cancers (like liver cancer), and even depression.

How the origin of humankind in Africa, their subsequent migrations out of the continent and their interbreeding with the Neanderthals, the Denisovans and other archaic hominids, who are today extinct, have together contributed to different human traits is an active area of research.

A file photo of a reconstructed Neanderthal man and woman at the Neanderthal museum in Mettmann, Germany. AP

In fact, one recent study published in *Nature* analysed human population diversity in Africa and reported that early humans diverged in Africa from multiple, rather than single, ancestral roots and that descendants from only some of those roots could have interbred with the Neanderthals and the Denisovans. Different global populations therefore have varying degrees of the genetic components from these archaic human species.

How can this knowledge help us?

By understanding the genetic interactions between them and us, scientists can better comprehend the genetic diversity and adaptability of our species.

The continued exploration of this interbreeding event and its consequences for human biology and health represents an exciting frontier in genomic research. As more studies contribute to the extant evidence in this field, our understanding of the interplay between archaic and modern human genomes will continue to deepen.

This knowledge could in turn offer new avenues for the study and treatment of various diseases, as well as build a greater appreciation for the intricate tapestry of human genetic heritage.

The authors are scientists at the CSIR Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB). The opinions expressed here are personal.

(This article is part of a fortnightly column exploring contemporary concepts and issues in genetics.)

THE GIST

Prehistoric humans and Neanderthals are believed to have interbred, exchanging genetic material and contributing to the genomes of present-day humans, thus shaping human destiny to this day. This is also known as the introgression of genomic sequences. Researchers have estimated that this interbreeding occurred approximately 70,000-100,000 years ago, leaving a lasting genetic legacy in the human population.

The evolutionary geneticist Svante Pääbo made significant contributions to the study of Neanderthal genomes and the transfer of genetic information (introgression) between the archaic, long-extinct hominids, the Neanderthals, the Denisovans, and modern day humans. (Denisovans are a subspecies of archaic humans who lived until around 30,000 years ago.)

The continued exploration of this interbreeding event and its consequences for human biology and health represents an exciting frontier in genomic research. As more studies contribute to the extant evidence in this field, our understanding of the interplay between archaic and modern human genomes will continue to deepen.

BIG SHOT

A researcher at the University of Brasilia holds up a bat that was caught in a net in Brasilia on June 28, 2021. Because bats can host many pathogens without falling ill, scientists now believe they may be key to fighting the next pandemic. REUTERS

WHAT IS IT?

Could an ocean cocktail have been the trigger for abiogenesis?

The origin of life on Earth is often a topic of hot debate within the scientific community. One of the prominent theories of how life came to be is abiogenesis.

This theory states that life started on earth 3.5 billion years ago from non-life components such as amino acids, nucleotide molecules or sugars.

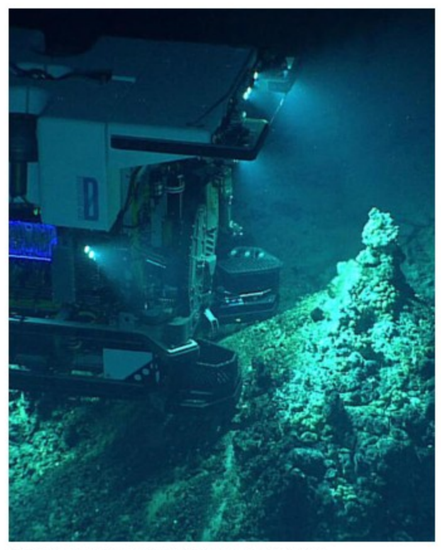
These are the building blocks of life. To prove this theory, the now-famous Miller-Urey experiment was conducted in 1952.

Two scientists, Stanley Miller and Harold Urey, applied a substantial amount of electricity to a mix of hydrogen, ammonia, methane and water vapour, mimicking the conditions found on earth at the time.

Proponents of abiogenesis hypothesise that these simple components came together to form complex molecules such as proteins and nucleic acids, which then went on to form single-stranded RNA and its more complex cousin, the double-stranded DNA.

Scientists believe this process kicked off most likely around hydrothermal vents deep in the ocean.

— Arkatapa Basu



ROV Deep Discoverer images a newly discovered hydrothermal vent field at Chammoro Seamount. NOAA

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

‘Water gushed in from all sides in less than two minutes’

While traffic police maintain there were barricades blocking entry to the underpass and that an auto driver removed them, eyewitnesses claim that they could not see any at the spot

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After sudden rain, water at the K.R. Circle underpass, where 23-year-old Bhanurekha died after being stuck inside a car on Sunday, was about eight-feet deep and the driver could not judge the depth.

“It was raining and when we approached the underpass, I noticed one autorickshaw and one car were heading under it. Yet another auto stopped midway and asked me to go ahead. When I did, within two minutes, the car started floating and water gushed in from both sides and the engine died,” narrated Harisha, the driver of the cab in which Ms. Bhanurekha and her family were travelling.

It was later learnt from the Fire and Emergency Services and the police officials that while Mr. Harisha and other passengers could get out after opening one door, Ms. Bhanurekha could not come out as she was sitting in the rear. For her to get out, the middle seat had to be folded, and by the time they could pull her out, it was too late.

Several trees fell on the road at R.T. Nagar after rain lashed Bengaluru on Sunday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

14 Fire and Emergency Services personnel involved in rescue

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Officials in the Fire and Emergency Services said that 14 members rushed to the spot immediately for the rescue operation.

“Five people were on top and two (including Bhanurekha) were in the car. While ladders were used to bring the five people out, life jackets and lifeboats were used for the others. Although the doors were jammed in the beginning, they cracked open later and that is how five of them came out,” an official told *The Hindu*.

Traffic snarls

When asked why it took nine minutes to reach the spot, he said that it was owing to the traffic snarls at K.R. Circle due to the rain.

While the traffic police maintained that there were barricades blocking entry to the underpass and that an auto driver removed it to enter, eyewitnesses reported that they could not see any at the spot.

“I was on my bike near the underpass and heard people screaming. I went to check what happened and saw the car floating. I and a few other people immediately jumped into the water and tried to pull the victims out, but we could not,” described Prabhakar Reddy, an interior design company employee, who was at the spot.

“I saw the driver sitting on the bonnet and shouting for help,” said Manjunath Chandra, a private firm employee, who was also at the spot. “I could not help them much as I cannot swim. But a woman threw the end of her sari and asked them to grab it and climb out, but they could not. A quick response team was passing by, and I asked them to help. Five of them and a traffic constable jumped into the water to save them. Later, some of us also formed a human chain and helped rescue those who were stuck,” he further said.

He said that it took nine minutes for the Fire and Emergency Services vehicle to reach the spot. Both eyewitnesses said that St. Marthas’s Hospital did not take Ms. Bhanurekha in for five minutes. The hospital, however, has denied this claim.

“Ms. Bhanurekha was taken in an autorickshaw and other unconscious victims in media vehicles to the hospital. When I reached there, Ms. Bhanurekha was still not taken inside. When the Chief Minister came, I told him the same thing and he assured that he will verify the CCTV camera footage,” said Mr. Reddy.

From Page One

Woman dies after car gets submerged

He said, “There were barricades erected near the underpass, but due to strong winds and rain, they had fallen down. The driver should not have entered the underpass. When the car went there, water gushed inside and the doors got jammed. The doctors said that she was dead by the time she was brought to the hospital.”

While declaring a ₹5 lakh compensation for Banurekha’s family, he also said that the treatment charges of all the other members who were trapped in the car would be covered by the government. The family members alleged that Banurekha was denied emergency treatment at the hospital.

Responding to these allegations, the Chief Minister said, “The doctors said that they did not deny treatment. However, we will investigate the matter and take action if there was any neglect or denial.”

Mr Siddaramiah also said that his government would take up drainage clearance and action against encroachment of rajakaluves on priority..

K.R. Circle underpass usually floods during rain, say officials

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The underpass at K.R. Circle is usually flooded during heavy rain and the traffic police block access to the underpass by placing barricades, like it did on Sunday evening.

Bengaluru’s Chief Civic Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath, speaking to presspersons on Sunday, said that civic officials usually coordinate with the traffic police to not allow traffic in underpasses during heavy rains, and the civic body will investigate how the car went into the underpass despite it being barricaded.

Mr. Nath also said that the drainage system in the underpass may have fallen short as there was a squall and heavy rain in a short interval of time.

“I have asked the engineer-in-chief to submit a report on the health status of the underpass by Monday afternoon. We will open it only after taking corrective measures,” he said.

A senior civic official and a traffic police personnel said this was not the first time the underpass has been flooded.

“The underpass at K.R. Circle usually floods even with light showers. Barricading the underpass is an ad-hoc measure. The drainage system in the underpass needs to be fixed,” said a senior traffic official.

A senior engineer from the civic body said that there were only two possibilities why underpasses flood. Either the drainage system installed is insufficient and doesn’t have a good gradient for the water to flow out or the drainage system is choked with solid waste, he said.

“Ideally, drainage systems in all underpasses need to be cleaned up regularly during the rainy season. Though the monsoon hasn’t set in yet, we know that pre-monsoon showers are actually more damaging. No drive to remove silt from the drainage system in the underpasses has been taken up this year,” the official said.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah hinted at the drainage system in the underpass being choked and that there was a need to remove silt from it.

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, MAY. 22	
RISE	05:53 SET 18:39
RISE	07:52 SET 21:16
TUESDAY, MAY. 23	
RISE	05:53 SET 18:40
RISE	08:45 SET 22:07
WEDNESDAY, MAY. 24	
RISE	05:53 SET 18:40
RISE	09:39 SET 22:55

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	35	28
Mysuru	36	22
Bengaluru	34	23

Bengaluru Today
35°C The weather will be warm and humid. Night also will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower may occur at some places.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
34°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm and humid. Night will be pleasant. Spell of rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2023
All rights reserved.

IMD: Rain expected to continue in Bengaluru for next five days

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The heavy rain which lashed the city on Sunday is expected to continue for the next five days.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD), Bengaluru, forecast states that the city will continue to receive rainfall for the next five days. “Bengaluru is going to receive heavy rainfall in the next five days, but the intensity will come down after three days. The intensity of the rainfall will reduce on May 24 and 25,” Prasad, scientist, IMD Bengaluru.

The forecast for the next 36 hours for Bengaluru states: ”Generally cloudy sky, light to moderate rain and thundershowers are very likely in some areas. Maximum and minimum temperatures are very likely to be around 33 and 21 degrees Celsius respectively.”

Mr. Prasad said that the rain which lashed the city is pre-monsoon showers. “There is a trough extending from Vidarbha to south Tamil Nadu across interior Karnataka which is more active over South-interior Karnataka. Due to this we can expect to see rainfall for the next few days,” Mr. Prasad said.

“Once the trough weakens completely the rainfall activity will come down, so we are not expecting the trough to continue for a long time. It may be there only for a few days,” he added.

On Sunday afternoon, the city witnessed heavy rainfall coupled with hailstorms. Many parts of North Bengaluru were hit by hailstorms. Mr. Prasad said that it is not an unusual phenomenon for Bengaluru to receive hailstorms during this time of the year.

“Last year also we had hailstorms in Bengaluru. In fact, Bengaluru, Kolar, Chickballapur, Chitradurga, Gadag, Vijayapura, Bidar are prone to hailstorms. The convergence is more now. Already there is sufficient heating and because of that we are getting thunderstorms and hailstorms are bound to occur in one or two places,” Mr. Prasad said.

According to IMD observation data recorded at 5.30 p.m. on Sunday, Bengaluru city received 30 mm of rainfall, and the Bengaluru International Airport and the HAL Airport stations received 8.6 mm and 25.1 mm, respectively.

As per the Karnataka State Natural Disaster Management Centre, Yelahanka, Devanahalli, R.R. Nagara, West, East, South, and some parts of Bommanahalli zones received moderate rainfall (15.6 mm to 64.4 mm). Mahadevpura and some parts of Bommanahalli zones received light rainfall (2.5 mm to 15 mm).

According to the Bengaluru Varuna Mitra website, Rajamahal Guttahalli recorded 66 mm rainfall followed by Kottegepalya and Nagapura with 54 and 40 mm, respectively.

A tree that got uprooted following rain in Bengaluru on Sunday. PTI

An electricity pole which fell on a car at R.T. Nagar in Bengaluru on Sunday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

CET: 93.16% attendance on day two

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With a 93.16% attendance, a total of 2,43,728 candidates across the State gave their Physics and Chemistry exams on Sunday, the second day of Common Entrance Test (CET)-2023.

S .Ramya, ED, KEA, stated in a release that out of 2,61,610 registered candidates, a total of 2,43,728 candidates appeared for both the papers.

The Kannada language test will be conducted for Kannadiga candidates of Horanadu and Gadinadu at Bidar, Belagavi, Ballari, Vijayapura, Mangaluru, and Bengaluru centres on Monday.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

Feel the magic of Vivid Sydney

Think Sydney, Think Singapore Airlines.

Embark on an adventure in Sydney & New South Wales. From magnificent national parks, golden beaches, road trips to delectable wine regions, there is so much to discover. Experience the magic of Vivid Sydney, Australia's biggest and brightest festival from 26 May - 17 June 2023. Fly with Singapore Airlines for the best connections to Sydney.

All-in return fares

Economy Class	Premium Economy Class	Business Class
FROM ₹60,300*	FROM ₹113,100*	FROM ₹209,300*

Book now at singaporeair.com

SYDNEY Destination NSW

SINGAPORE AIRLINES

*Fares shown are per person flying on Singapore Airlines flights, for travel from Bengaluru to Sydney, and include all associated taxes and surcharges. Fares shown are accurate as on 18 April 2023; actual prices may vary between cities and are subject to currency fluctuation. Seats advertised on the above fares are limited and subject to availability. Contact your travel agent or Singapore Airlines Contact Centre at 1800 121 212 to book. Pay with Netbanking when you book online at singaporeair.com. Other terms and conditions apply.

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945 • ISSN 0971 - 751X

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The profit reported by the Airports Authority of India in FY22-23

3,400 In ₹ crore. Surging domestic air traffic boosted the AAI's financial performance. AAI has reported a profit for the first time after the pandemic. PTI

The total dues of electricity distribution utilities in May

93,000 In ₹ crore. The dues of discoms have reduced by a third compared to June last year, which was ₹1.39 lakh crore. PTI

The amount FPIs have put in Indian equities in May so far

30,945 In ₹ crore. This came following a net infusion of ₹11,630 crore in equities in April and ₹7,936 crore in March. PTI

The number of people displaced by floods in northeast Italy

36,000 The floods are described as the worst the country has seen in a century. It has caused over 305 landslides and damaged 500 roads. AFP

Another military package for Ukraine from the U.S.

375 In $ million. Meeting with the Ukrainian leader on the sidelines of the G-7 summit, Mr. Biden said the package included ammunition, artillery etc. REUTERS

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Follow us facebook.com/thehindu twitter.com/the_hindu instagram.com/the_hindu

Understanding a human pangenome map

What is genome sequencing and why is it important? Why is the reference genome map considered one of the most important scientific breakthroughs? What is the difference between a reference map and a pangenome map? How is India hoping to benefit from the latest genome map?

EXPLAINER

Binay Panda

The story so far:

A new study published in the May 10 issue of the *Nature* journal describes a pangenome reference map, built using genomes from 47 anonymous individuals (19 men and 28 women), mainly from Africa but also from the Caribbean, Americas, East Asia, and Europe.

What is a genome?

The genome is the blueprint of life, a collection of all the genes and the regions between the genes contained in our 23 pairs of chromosomes. Each chromosome is a contiguous stretch of DNA string. In other words, our genome consists of 23 different strings, each composed of millions of individual building blocks called nucleotides or bases. The four types of building blocks (A, T, G and C) are arranged and repeated millions of times in different combinations to make all of our 23 chromosomes. Genome sequencing is the method used to determine the precise order of the four letters and how they are arranged in chromosomes. Sequencing individual genomes helps us understand human diversity at the genetic level and how prone we are to certain diseases.

The genome is an identity card like Aadhaar. As each of our Aadhar card is unique, so is our genome. As sequencing individual genomes of all humans is expensive, we do not yet have all our genome identity cards. To circumvent this, one can have a collective identity card. For example, we can have a single genome identity card for everyone living in a region.

What is a reference genome?

When genomes are newly sequenced, they are compared to a reference map called a reference genome. This helps us to understand the regions of differences between the newly sequenced genome and the reference genome. One of this century's scientific breakthroughs was the making of the first reference genome in 2001. It helped scientists discover thousands of genes linked to various diseases; better understand diseases like cancer at the genetic level; and design novel diagnostic tests. Although a remarkable feat, the reference genome of 2001 was 92% complete and contained many gaps and errors. Additionally, it was not representative of all human beings as it was built using mostly the genome of a single individual of mixed African and European ancestry. Since then, the reference genome map has been refined and improved to have complete end-to-end sequences of all the 23 human chromosomes.

GETTY IMAGES

Although complete and error-free, the finished reference genome map does not represent all of human diversity. The new study published in *Nature* changes this. The main paper and the accompanying articles published in the same journal and *Nature Biotechnology* describe the making of the pangenome map, the genetic diversity among the 47 individuals, and the computational methods developed to build the map and represent differences in those genomes.

What is a pangenome map?

Unlike the earlier reference genome, which is a linear sequence, the pangenome is a graph. The graph of each chromosome is like a bamboo stem with nodes where a stretch of sequences of all 47 individuals converge (similar), and with internodes of varying lengths representing genetic variations among those individuals from different ancestries. To create complete and contiguous chromosome maps in the pangenome project, the researchers used long-read DNA sequencing technologies, which produce strings of contiguous DNA strands of tens of thousands of nucleotides long. Using longer reads helps assemble the sequences with minimum errors and read through the repetitive regions of the chromosomes which are hard to sequence with short-read technologies used earlier.

Why is a pangenome map important?

Although any two humans are more than 99% similar in their DNA, there is still about a 0.4% difference between any two individuals. This may be a small percentage, but considering that the human genome consists of 3.2 billion individual nucleotides, the difference between any two individuals is a whopping 12.8 million nucleotides. A complete and error-free human pangenome map will help us understand those differences and explain human diversity better. It will also help us understand genetic variants in some populations, which result in underlying health conditions. The pangenome reference map has added nearly 119 million new letters to the existing genome map and has already aided the discovery of 150 new genes linked to autism.

Although the project is a leap forward, genomes from many populations are still not a part of it. For example, genomes from more people from Africa, the Indian sub-continent, indigenous groups in Asia and Oceania, and West Asian regions are not represented in the current version of the pangenome map.

Even though the current map does not contain genome sequences from Indians, it will help map Indian genomes better against the error-free and complete reference genomes known so far. Future pangenome maps that include high quality genomes from Indians, including from many endogamous and isolated populations within the country, will shed light on disease prevalence, help discover new genes for rare diseases, design better diagnostic methods, and help discover novel drugs against those diseases.

Binay Panda is a Professor at the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

THE GIST

- A new study published in the May 10 issue of the *Nature* journal describes a pangenome reference map, built using genomes from 47 anonymous individuals.
- A complete and error-free human pangenome map will help us understand differences and explain human diversity better. It will also help us understand genetic variants in some populations which result in underlying health conditions.
- Future pangenome maps that include high-quality genomes from Indians, including many endogamous and isolated populations within the country, will shed light on disease prevalence.

What is the 'Open Network for Digital Commerce'?

How does the ONDC intend to achieve a level-playing field for online sellers? Why are major e-commerce players such as Amazon and Flipkart reluctant to join the ONDC?

Prashanth Perumal

The story so far:

The Union government is looking to formally launch the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) this year to "democratise e-commerce" and "to provide alternatives to proprietary e-commerce sites". While it has urged companies to join the ONDC platform, major e-commerce players such as Amazon and Flipkart have been reluctant to get on board.

What is the ONDC?

The government wants to change the fundamental structure of the e-commerce market from the current "platform-centric model to an open-network model". The ONDC is modelled after the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) project that is seen as a success by many. The UPI project allows people to send or receive money irrespective of the payments platforms on which they are registered. Similarly, the government wants to ensure that buyers and sellers of goods in the e-commerce market can transact regardless of the platforms on which they are registered. So under ONDC, a buyer registered on Amazon, for example, may directly purchase goods from a seller who sells on Flipkart. To make such transactions a reality, the government has ordered companies to list themselves on the ONDC. The pilot version of ONDC was launched last year in a few major cities and thousands of sellers have already been on-boarded onto the platform. Amazon and Flipkart, however, have not on-boarded their main shopping platforms onto the ONDC network yet.

Why is the Centre pushing for it?

The government believes that the ONDC will put an end to the domination of the e-commerce market by a few large platforms. It says that the e-commerce market is currently broken into "silos" operated and dominated by private platforms. Amazon and Flipkart, for instance, have been accused of promoting certain seller entities in which they hold indirect stakes. Food delivery apps such as Swiggy and Zomato have also been accused of charging high commissions from sellers. With an open network like ONDC that connects buyers and sellers across platforms, the government hopes to level the playing field and make private platforms redundant.

What do critics say?

Critics argue that the purported benefits of an open network for digital commerce are far from certain at the moment. For one, sellers are already free to list their products across various e-commerce platforms even in today's platform-centric e-commerce model. Buyers also routinely shop across platforms. Then there are also services such as price-comparison that are offered by various private websites that bridge the information gap and help buyers make better decisions. So, critics argue, the domination of the e-commerce market by platforms such as Amazon and Flipkart may not be due to any captive hold that these platforms have over buyers and sellers. Further, the supposed monopoly that platforms are said to enjoy may be no different from the limited monopoly that any business today has over its property.

What lies ahead?

The capacity of the government's technocrats to come up with an efficient alternative to e-commerce platforms that can work seamlessly will be tested as the government rolls out the ONDC. It remains to be seen if and how the government's open network will list products offered by various sellers. Competition generally pushes e-commerce platforms to prominently list products that are most likely to catch the fancy of buyers. Their on-boarding and listing of sellers is also heavily influenced by the ability of sellers to fulfil customer orders. In fact, platforms may invest money to build exclusive on-boarding and listing processes. If the open network's rules prevent platforms from benefiting from such investments, they may cease to make them anymore. This will eventually affect the quality of services available to consumers. Building an efficient marketplace for the sale of goods and services may turn out to be the key challenge for ONDC.

THE GIST

- The government wants to change the fundamental structure of the e-commerce market from the current "platform-centric model to an open-network model".
- The government believes that the ONDC will put an end to the domination of the e-commerce market by a few large platforms.
- Building an efficient marketplace for the sale of goods and services may turn out to be the key challenge for ONDC.

EDUCATIONPLUS

GET THE EDGE Follow us facebook.com/thehindu twitter.com/the_hindu instagram.com/the_hindu

Ringing in change

Members of the Punjab Education Collective, which won the Collective Social Innovation Award from the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship, talk about how they worked with the state government to provide good education to children in the government schools

Soma Basu
soma.basu@thehindu.co.in

(Clockwise from left) A geography lesson at a government school; Simranpreet Singh Oberoi of Sanjhi Sikhiya; Rucha Pande of Mantra4Change and Khushboo Awasthi of ShikshaLokam who are members of the PEC SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Through the pandemic-led lockdown, a government school in the interiors of Mohali, Punjab, kept communications open with its 65 students and their parents. The staff regularly called parents and asked about the family's well-being and the child's willingness to learn at home.

When things normalised, the school reopened with a Parent-Teacher Meeting. The school was decorated to receive the students, the parents were treated with dignity and made to feel important, as they discussed their ward's interests and progress with the teacher.

This may appear to be a simple measure but it has borne fruit in the interiors of Punjab, as parents are returning their children to government-run schools. Often, the rural environment does not push one towards education. Earlier, PTMs were rare. If they did happen, the parents (mostly farm labourers) didn't show up. When they did, the teachers and parents didn't understand one another.

Beginning

But, since 2019, there has been a systemic transformation in the education ecosystem of Punjab, thanks to a group of social entrepreneurs who hit upon the idea of collective responsibility in improving the teaching-learning process and enhancing student-learning outcomes across the 19,000 government schools in the State. Though most government-run schools in Punjab had better infrastructure compared to other states, either the student enrolment was poor or the student-to-teacher ratio was an extreme 1:1000.

Between 2014 and 2017, over 40% of the students failed their exams and more than 300,000 migrated to private schools. Nearly 70% in the 14-18 age group could not identify their state on the map and 50% in Class 5 could not comprehend basic Maths. Yet, for consecutive years, the State topped in IELTS, the English language test for study or work abroad.

Thus, The Punjab Education Collective (PEC) was formed with four NGOs – Mantra4Change, Sanjhi Sikhiya, Samarthya and Shikshalokam – working in tandem with the state department.

"We do not dictate or impose grand new plans or replace the existing policies but try to make things work with what exists. It requires some motivation, out-of-the-box thinking and co-creating solutions," says Khusbhoo Awasthi, Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer, ShikshaLokam.

Impact

In the last four years, enrolment in government schools has crossed 27 lakhs and, early this year, the PEC was one of the recipients of the Collective Social Innovation Award from the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship, a sister organisation of the World Economic Forum.

So how did it all happen? The PEC aligned with the State's flagship programme Padho Punjab, Padhao Punjab, and helped drive change through Samaaj (the four NGOs), Sarkar (State Education Department) and Bazaar (philanthropic organisations like the Ford Foundation and market players like Deloitte and McKinsey).

Simranpreet Singh Oberoi, Co-Founder, Sanjhi Sikhiya, explains PEC's approach. "We designed, orchestrated and evangelised change by identifying motivators and mentors from within the schools, community, panchayats and villages; amplified the leadership development opportunities, designed leadership curriculum booklets for all stakeholders and developed apps to track every big or small progress and challenges they faced."

The results can be seen in the Performance Grading Index (instituted by the Department of School Education and Literacy, Union Ministry of Education), the National Achievement Survey, the School Education Quality Index initiated by NITI Aayog and the Annual School Education Report by Pratham Foundation: Punjab's overall ranking has moved from 13 in 2019 to number 1 in 2020/21 and 2022.

"We stepped in to develop clarity and promote a shared understanding of the roles that parents, teachers, mentors, and community leaders ought to play. The State was prompt in revising budget allocations for a slew of activities from infrastructure and teacher education to action research and exposure visits," says Rucha Pande, COO, Mantra4Change. "Bringing change in the state's education system at scale, with speed and sustainably meant co-creation, collaboration and more context. Building a larger network of civil society organisations to drive impact across domains helped," adds Siddharth Chopra, Co-Founder, Samarthya

It started with small surveys and evaluation of what did not and would work at the ground level and friendly interventions and prompt action on every complaint or demand. Government schools were given the support to make their environment more inviting.

Today, the initiative has metamorphosed into a larger movement. It has taught and shown teachers and community members to be independent and proactive in providing good education to their children.

Co-creating instant solutions is the way ahead, underlines Khushboo, citing the example of a Gurudwara management in Mohali that came forward to repair a wall and whitewash the school building.

Typically, if there are 15 schools in a cluster, they have now developed a community of good practices, taking responsibility and self-managing things and learning from each other.

While the award has put the spotlight on the PEC, the team realises that there is still a long way to go to ensure the system's sustainability. "We have to make an impact on every child in the State and make Punjab a successful prototype for the country," says Simranpreet.

SUNDARAM EDUCATIONAL TRUST CHENNAI

Invites participation in the 2023-2024 batch of **"EDUCATION LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME"** developed by Centre for Education Management and Development, New Delhi and conducted by Spirit of Leadership, New Delhi. The one-year programme aimed at Correspondents, Management Members, Principals, Vice Principals, Coordinators and Senior Teachers of schools consists of three modules dealing with Facilitative, Instructional and Institutional Leadership with three contact sessions of six days each and is substantially subsidized by the Sundaram Educational Trust, Chennai. Institutional sponsorship is essential.

Venue: Chennai
Last date for registration: June 20, 2023
For further details,
Email to: **beena.gopinath@brakesindia.co.in**
(or) Call: **044-2652 6553, 098414 18443.**

SCHOLARSHIPS

FAEA Scholarship 2023-24

This is an opportunity offered by the Foundation for Academic Excellence and Access (FAEA) to students in India.

Eligibility: Open for applicants who have passed Class 12 from a recognised board in India or be in first-year undergraduate courses in arts/ commerce/ science/ medical/ engineering and other technical and professional disciplines at any university/institution/ college in India.

Rewards: Complete course fees and other benefits

Deadline: June 30

Application: Online b4s.in/plus/FAE9

University of Derby GREAT Scholarships 2023

This is an opportunity offered by the University of Derby in partnership with the British Council and the GREAT Britain Campaign to postgraduate applicants. The selected scholar will receive a scholarship of £11,000 for one year of postgraduate study (one-time).

Eligibility: The applicant must be an Indian passport-holder and hold an offer to pursue a one-year postgraduate course at the University of Derbybe motivated and academically able to follow and benefit from a UK postgraduate taught course. Must be active in the field with work experience or with a proven interest in the proposed subject area and meet the English language requirement of the University of Derby.

Rewards: £11,000 for one year of postgraduate study (one-time).

Deadline: June 01

Application: Online bit.ly/3M2m3TM

Courtesy buddy4study

Convocations

CMR Institute of Technology, Bengaluru, celebrated its 20th Graduation Day with 1201 students receiving their degrees in subjects such as Engineering, Management, and Computer Applications. The Chief Guest was Prof. Dr. T.G. Sitharam, Chairman of AICTE.

St. Joseph's Institute of Management (SJIM) celebrated its 26th Convocation Day with 170 students receiving their PG Diplomas in Management. Rev. Fr. Dionysius Vaz SJ, Provincial of Karnataka Jesuit Province and Chairman of SJIM's Governing Council, gave away the diplomas. Romal Shetty, CEO of Deloitte South Asia, delivered the Convocation Address.

R.E.S. POLYTECHNIC
Estd: 1986 - Recognised by Govt. of Karnataka & AICTE
Visit us for ADMISSIONS & CAREER GUIDANCE
JOIN DIPLOMA IN: ♦ Computer Science ♦ Civil ♦ Mechanical ♦ Automobile ♦ Electrical ♦ Electronics ♦ Fashion Tech ♦ Commerce (CP)
After Diploma can join JOB / 2nd year Engg OR Any Degree through LATERAL ENTRY QUOTA
PUC Pass Join 2 yrs Diploma Engineering
PUC Fail Join 3 yrs Diploma Engineering
5, Sunkadakatte, Magadi Road, Hegganahalli Cross, Bengaluru-91
Call: Secretary-99166 46466 / Principal-9916639466
RES-23402

#1 CATEGORY GRADED AUTONOMY BY UGC
GITAM (DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)
VISAKHAPATNAM • HYDERABAD • BENGALURU
NAAC A++ Grade
Ph.D. ADMISSIONS (2023-2024)
- GITAM (Deemed to be University) invites applications from eligible candidates for admission into Full-Time & Extramural (EMR) Ph.D. programmes for the year 2023-2024 in Engineering, Science, Management, Humanities & Social Sciences, Pharmacy & Law for Visakhapatnam, Hyderabad & Bengaluru campuses.
- State-of-the-art research equipment facilities to perform high-end research.
- MURTI Excellence Research Fellowships will be provided to highly motivated Ph.D. Full-Time scholars.(40,000/-p.m. for a period of three years).
- The Admission will be granted on the basis of an entrance test and interview.
- Lastdate to apply:**10th June 2023**.
- Applyonline @ **https://researchadmissions.gitam.edu/**

Director –Research & Development Cell

INSTITUTE OF ADVANCED VIROLOGY
Autonomous institution under Science & Technology Department
Government of Kerala
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala - 695317.

IAV/600/Acds/2023/PhD 22.05.2023

PhD ADMISSION NOTIFICATION – 2023-24

Institute of Advanced Virology (IAV) Thiruvananthapuram focuses on conducting advanced research in diagnosis and management of emerging and re-emerging infectious viral diseases. The Institute is affiliated with Regional Centre for Biotechnology, Faridabad and Cochin University of Science & Technology for its academic programmes. IAV invites applications from eligible candidates for the PhD program in various domains of Virology.

Eligibility Criteria:
(i) MSc or an equivalent degree in Life Sciences OR MVSc /MBBS or an equivalent degree
(ii) Qualifying Marks – 60% or equivalent grade (5% relaxation for OBC(NCL)/ SC/ST/PWD)
(iii) Fellowship – JRF from CSIR/UGC / DST-INSPIRE/ DBT-/ICMR/other Govt. agencies having validity of five years.

Last date for submission of online application: 19.06.2023
Application Fees: Rs.500/-
For detailed advertisement form log on to **www.iav.kerala.gov.in**
Link for online application **https://forms.gle/kTMaDCbuu13ffaR28**

Sd/-
Director

39 YEARS OF ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
B.S. Abdur Rahman ™ Crescent Institute of Science & Technology
Deemed to be University u/s 3 of the UGC Act, 1956
NAAC A+ | 10 Programmes Tier-1 | nirf 2022 Engg:102 | Univ:151-200 | THE IMPACT RANKINGS SDG 6&7: Top 200 SDG 4: Top 400 | QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS QS Asia University Ranking 2022 601-650 | QS I-GAUGE DIAMOND Diamond
ADMISSIONS OPEN - 2023
APPLY NOW
Learn to Lead

ENGINEERING

B.Tech. Programmes
- Artificial Intelligence and Data Science
- Computer Science and Engineering
- Computer Science and Engineering (Cyber Security)
- Computer Science and Engineering (IoT)
- Information Technology
- Civil Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Automobile Engineering
- Aeronautical Engineering
- Polymer Engineering
- Biotechnology
- Electrical and Electronics Engineering
- Electronics and Communication Engineering
- Electronics and Computer Engineering*
- Electronics and Instrumentation Engineering

M.Tech. Programmes
- Artificial Intelligence and Data Science
- Avionics
- CAD-CAM
- Structural Engineering
- Construction Engineering & Project Management
- Computer Science and Engineering
- Information Technology
- VLSI and Embedded Systems
- Power Systems Engineering
- Biotechnology
- Food Biotechnology

*Awaiting AICTE Approval

Architecture & Design
- B.Arch.
- B.Des. Interior Design
- M.Arch.

LAW
- BBA LLB (Hons.)
- BA LLB (Hons.)
- LLM (Criminal Law)

Pharmacy
- B.Pharm.
- M.Pharm. (Pharmaceutics)

Business Administration
- MBA
- MBA-IEV (Innovation Entrepreneurship and Venture Development)

ARTS & SCIENCE
- B.Sc. Biotechnology
- B.Sc. Computer Science
- BCA (Cloud Technology & Information Security | Data Science | Artificial Intelligence | Cyber Security)
- B.Com. (Hons.)
- B.Com. Accounts & Finance
- B.Com. Professional Accounting
- B.Com. General
- BBA Financial Services
- BBA General
- B.A. Public Policy
- B.A. English
- B.A. Islamic Studies
- MCA
- M.Sc. Actuarial Science
- M.Sc. Chemistry
- M.Sc. Physics
- M.Sc. Biotechnology
- M.Sc. Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
- M.Sc. Microbiology
- M.Com.
- M.A. Islamic Studies

Ph.D in all disciplines

CDOE Programmes
- Online MBA
- Online MCA
- Open and Distance Learning MBA
- Open and Distance Learning MCA

Scan here to Apply Online

Admission Help-Desk:
+91 95432 77888 (UG) | +91 99530 77999 (PG) | +91 94990 01725
+91 44 2275 9200/1347/1348/1350 | admissions@crescent.education
GST Road, Vandalur, Chennai-600 048, Tamilnadu, INDIA.

www.crescent.education

PULSE-CHECK

ISTOCKPHOTO

After sugar, it is time to regulate how much salt is being consumed

Salt reduction in diet is the most cost-effective measure to control non-communicable diseases. The World Health Organization had previously cautioned that the world is off track to achieve its global target of reducing salt intake by 30% by 2025

Rajan Ravichandran

After the COVID-19 pandemic, what seems to have caught the world's attention is salt intake and its harmful effects on the human body. Recently, the Indian Council for Medical Research tweeted about the ways to reduce salt intake by avoiding the addition of salt while cooking rice or preparing the dough, skipping pickles and table salt and going in for salt substitutes. It rightly pointed out that children, younger than 12 years, require only three grams of salt per day.

The World Health Organization had cautioned a couple of months ago that the world is off track to achieve its global target of reducing salt intake by 30% by 2025. The report shows that only 5% of the WHO member states have mandatory and comprehensive sodium-reducing policies. Additionally, seventy-three per cent of the WHO member states lack the full range implementation of the policies.

Implementing highly cost effective sodium reducing policies could save an estimated seven million lives globally by 2030.

Reducing sodium in diet

An unhealthy diet is the leading cause of non-communicable disease, with excess sodium being the main culprit. WHO has suggested the following measures – reformulation of food to contain less salt; controlled procurement of high sodium food in public institutions like schools, workplaces and hospitals; labelled promotion of packed foods with low sodium choices and achieving behavioural changes in population through campaigning in media.

The WHO has also established a scorecard for various countries. According to that card, India does not have a national policy but it does have voluntary measures to reduce sodium. However, this has not caught up well in the last decade. Only persons who have hypertension or kidney disease are advised by their personal physicians to reduce salt in the diet. The population at large is still not aware of the danger of hidden salt – salt that is present in ready-made and packed foods.

The effects of excess salt

Unfortunately, sodium labelling is not mandatory in our country so far. It is also important to use the word salt rather than sodium so that people can appreciate the relationship to hypertension. A recent study from Sweden has shown a connection between salt consumption and atherosclerosis, even in the absence of hypertension. Atherosclerosis is a disease which blocks the blood vessels. The study included 10,788 individuals between 50 to 64 years. Every gram of extra sodium was associated with a 9% occurrence of plaques in the carotid arteries which supplies blood to the brain; and a 17% increase in coronary artery plaques.

Recently, a salt awareness week was celebrated between May 15 to May 21. The pioneering organisation from U.K., WASH (World Action on Salt and Health) has been spearheading campaigns all over the world.

Sapiens Health Foundation, an NGO from Chennai has also been campaigning throughout India since 2010. The organisation was given the Notable Achievement Award by the World Hypertension League in 2014 for reducing salt intake in the population. So far the studies conducted in India have been in small numbers of approximately 1,000 individuals. The foundation is planning to form a low-salt group and involve more than 100 physicians and food manufacturers to conduct research and bring down the sodium content of packed foods. The foundation has already written to more than 300 food manufacturers in the country to use modern technology for prolonging the shelf life rather than use sodium and that low-salt substitutes should be offered in various snacks. It has also written to the Central Government to make salt labelling mandatory and copy the signal labelling of U.K., where a red colour indicates unhealthy high salt content.

To reduce salt consumption

The U.K. has been the leading country in the world to have reduced salt consumption in the population. Over the last decade, the salt content of bread has been brought down by 30% gradually, without people being aware. This has resulted in preventing thousands of strokes and cardiovascular events. According to a Cochrane review, reducing salt in the diet in diabetic patients is associated with slower progression of kidney disease, with fewer drugs required to control blood pressure.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, there were notable studies from China and Germany which pointed out the association between high salt intake and decreased immunity in the body. Salt reduction in the diet is the most cost-effective measure to control non-communicable diseases. India should wake up to this reality. Improving the quality of life by avoiding strokes and heart attacks is the goal – not just prolonging longevity.

The writer is a senior nephrologist based in Chennai, and chairman, Sapiens Health Foundation

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz on the life of Herge, the creator of Tintin, who was born on May 22 in 1907

V. V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
What was the christened name of Herge? He was a native of which European nation?

QUESTION 2
Having been an active boy scout, Herge in 1926 began a comic strip featuring a character, who was a patrol leader, in a magazine called *Le Boy-scout belge*. Name the character considered by Herge scholars to be a precursor to Tintin.

QUESTION 3
Tintin was 'born' on January 10, 1929 in which magazine of which Herge had become the editor the previous year?

QUESTION 4
Between 1930 and 1941, Herge produced a popular comic series featuring two mischievous boys from Brussels and their run-ins with the local police. Name the troublesome duo.

QUESTION 5
In 1934, Herge befriended a sculptor/artist who impressed upon the former the importance of a strong storyline and good background research while writing his stories. Name this Chinese artist who inspired *The Blue Lotus*.

QUESTION 6
In *The Adventures of Jo, Zette and Jocko*, what type of animal was Jocko?

QUESTION 7
What type of heavenly body has been named '1652 Hergé' after the famous artist-writer?

Visual question:
How does the postal address of the Herge Museum pay tribute to his most famous creation?

Questions and Answers to the May 19 edition of the daily quiz: 1. He is known as the father of anatomy. **Ans: Herophilus**
2. The first woman to graduate as a medical student in the U.S. and also the first woman to register herself as a physician in the medical register in the U. K. **Ans: Elizabeth Blackwell**
3. This doctor did her M.B.B.S from the Madras Medical College in 1949 and was the first one to join this venture by Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddy in Chennai. **Ans: Dr. V.Shanta; Adyar Cancer Hospital**
4. This person was the first to describe systemic circulation in the human body. **Ans: William Harvey**
5. This young Canadian received the Nobel Prize exactly 100 years ago for his work that delivered 'the greatest benefit to human kind', in the field of diabetes care. **Ans: Frederick G. Banting, for the discovery of Insulin**
Visual: An innovation that this person pioneered in Vienna brought down the number of deaths among mothers who had just delivered, dying from childbed fever. **Ans: Ignaz Semmelweis. He advocated a hand washing/hygiene regimen**
Early Birds: M. K. Sudhakar| Vaibhav Jain| M. Suresh Kumar| Jahnavi Taak| Sujata Patil

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

I am still finding my feet at the new job

I had to buy a suit for the same; the damage was not as bad as I thought it would be

S. Upendran

"Haven't seen Sujatha in a while. I guess her new job is keeping her busy. Any idea if she likes it or not?"

"I met her a couple of days ago. Said she was yet to find her feet."

"Find her feet! Does it mean getting used to a new situation?"

"That's right! Right now, she's not very comfortable because she hasn't understood everything she has to do in her new job. She needs more time to become familiar with it."

"Once she becomes familiar, she'll become more confident. How about this example? *I moved to Hyderabad recently after having lived in Chennai for nearly 25 years. I'm still finding my feet.*"

"In other words, you're trying to get used to a new city. It may take you several months to find your feet."

"I hope it doesn't take me that long! How long did it take you to find your feet in your new job?"

"Unlike Sujatha, it didn't take me very long. Found my feet quickly. Talking about Sujatha, she said that quite a few shops have laptops on sale."

"I know! I went shopping yesterday, and after nearly four years, I bought myself a new laptop."

"That's good to know. What was the damage?"

"Damage? There was no damage. I bought a new laptop, not a used one."

"The expression 'What's the damage?' is frequently used by native speakers of English in informal contexts. It's another way of asking someone how much he paid for something."

"In other words, it means the same thing as, 'How much did it cost?'"

"I guess you could say that."

"*Thanks for replacing some of the parts in my old fridge. What's the damage?*"

"Sounds good. Tell me, why did you buy a laptop? Your old one was working just fine."

"True. But like I said, I've had it for four years. I'm allowed to buy a few things now and then, am I not?"

"You certainly are. After all, it's your money."

"That's true. By the way, is 'am I not' correct? Shouldn't I have said, 'aren't I'?"

"In terms of grammar, both 'am I not' and 'aren't I' are acceptable. 'Am I not' is considered to be rather formal, and it's usually used in writing."

"I am expected to be present at the meeting, am I not?"

"Most people prefer to use 'aren't I'; especially, in speech."

"I'm very good looking, aren't I?"

"No comment. Some people use 'ain't' as the question tag. But, what you have to remember is that the word is considered to be non-standard. Careful users of the language are likely to frown on your use of the word."

upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Reverie:
absentminded dreaming while awake; an abstracted state of absorption

Synonyms: oneirism, daydream, castle in the air

Usage: *She was jolted out of her reverie when her mother started scolding her.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/reveriepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈɹɛvəɹi/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

SRM
INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
(Deemed to be University u/s 3 of UGC Act, 1956)

SRMJEEE
B.Tech 2023

PHASE 2
June 10th & 11th
2023

PHASE 3
July 22nd & 23rd
2023

LEARNERS
BECOMING LEADERS

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

Mr.Ravi Kunduru
Founder & CEO
QurHealth
United States

Mr.Vikraman Vasudevan
IPS
Superintendent of police
Chennai

Ms. Sharanya Ari
Indian Administrative Service
Deputy Commissioner (Education)
Greater Chennai Corporation

Mr. Varun Chakravarthy
Indian Cricketer

Ms. Rathika Ramasamy
First women Wildlife photographer
Founder, RR Foundation of
Wildlife Conservation

ADMISSIONS OPEN 2023

Offers UG/PG/PhD Programs in
Engineering and Technology I Medical & Health Sciences I Science & Humanities
Management I Law I Hotel Management I Agricultural Sciences

VERY GOOD
QS
2021

2023
QS WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS
One among 41
Indian Universities Ranked

SHANGHAI RANKING
One among 14 Universities
from India in ARWU2022-
Shanghai World University Rankings

2023
THE WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS
One among 75
Indian Universities
Ranked

nirf
NATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL RANKING FRAMEWORK
INDIA RANKINGS
2022

UNIVERSITY	19
ENGINEERING	24
MEDICAL	20
ARCHITECTURE	11
PHARMACY	12
DENTAL	8
RESEARCH	36

www.srmist.edu.in
Helpline : 080 690 87000
Email : admissions.india@srmist.edu.in

APPLY NOW

Cabinet expansion: Discussion to resume after special session

Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister to head back to Delhi; special session from today where newly-elected MLAs will take oath

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Consultations over expansion of the Cabinet are expected to resume after the special legislature session comes to an end on Wednesday. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar will head back to Delhi to meet the Central leaders.

A special three-day session has been convened from Monday where the newly elected members will be administered oath by the pro term Speaker R.V. Deshpande. Mr. Siddaramaiah has indicated that a new full term Speaker will also be elected in the session.

"The consultation process is not over yet. The Cabinet expansion will take place before May 26," KPCC working president Saleem Ahmed told *The Hindu*. He indicated that the Cabinet would be a mixture of seniors and a few new faces.

The allocation of portfolio is also expected to be delayed till the formation of a larger Cabinet, which would be possible after clearance from the high command, multiple party sources said. "The list of about 25 portfolios/Ministers is ready. But the allocation is being delayed as any changes later could result in embarrassment," sources said.

> The consultation process is not over yet. Cabinet expansion will take place before May 26. The Cabinet will be a mixture of seniors and a few new faces.
>
> **SALEEM AHMED,** KPCC working president

Pulls and pressures

More Ministers could not be sworn in and the numbers were restricted to eight on Saturday, besides Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister, because of the lack of consensus between the two leaders, said sources. While 20 more Cabinet Ministers are expected to be selected, the party is likely to keep four berths vacant, and the central leadership would be the deciding factor. Sources were also not confident of completing the expansion exercise in one go given the pulls and pressures from the two leaders. At least another 40 Cabinet aspirants are lobbying for the remaining positions, sources said. "Both leaders have taken their list and both have not agreed to the other's list. Both their claims seem to be legitimate. Some of the senior leaders whose entry into Cabinet was a foregone conclusion are now feeling slighted. A few of them did not attend the swearing in too. In such a scenario, it would be the Central leadership that would finalise the list of Cabinet Ministers," said a source, adding that balancing social justice and regional representation has been a huge task given such a big mandate.

On Sunday, in a message to workers and leaders, Mr. Shivakumar asked them to abstain from visiting either his house or Mr. Siddaramaiah's house. "There is no use in visiting houses or complaining about what M.B. Patil or any other leaders are saying. There is no need for middlemen," he said.

15 tonnes of waste collected after grand swearing-in ceremony

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

The grand swearing-in ceremony of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Saturday was attended by over a lakh people. Soon after the ceremony was over, pictures surfaced on social media of the streets around the stadium being littered with plastic packets, bottles and more.

According to the officials of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), 15 tonnes of waste were collected near the stadium.

"Around 1.2 lakh people attended the event. We had kept 50 dustbins, but there was a lot of litter. There were buttermilk packets, plastic water and juice bottles, tetra packs and much more collected," said an official in the Solid Waste Management department of BBMP.

They further said that the heavy rain which followed the swearing-in ceremony also added to accumulation of more waste. "As it rained heavily with strong winds, there were several fallen tree branches and leaves which also contributed to the large amount of garbage collected in the area," the official said.

Apart from this, around three tonnes of garbage were collected from near the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee office on Queens Road. While regular waste collection from the office is carried out in bulk waste generators category, on Saturday there was quite some littering near the office too.

With more waste expected to be generated on the day, the zonal BBMP officials had an extra compactor ready. "There was a wet compactor which we used as a mixed (dry and wet waste) compactor on Saturday," the official said.

The company, which had procured the tender for erecting banners and cutouts, had taken the responsibility of even discarding them which saved some work for the BBMP. With huge amounts of flowers also used during the function, a proactive woman volunteered to collect them and recycle them to provide fragrance for incense sticks, officials reported.

Masks littered at Kanteerava Stadium where the swearing-in ceremony was held. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

We'll probe previous regime's scams case by case: M.B. Patil

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Will the Congress, which raised corruption by the BJP government, including the PSI scam and 40% commission ahead of the elections, take the issues to the logical end?

If the newly sworn-in Minister M.B. Patil is to be believed, they ought to. "Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has already spoken to us. The investigation will be on case-to-case basis whether in irrigation or PSI scam or any other case. We will investigate and whoever is involved, whether officials or Ministers, will be punished," he told a news channel.

Mr. Patil said, "Mr. Siddaramaiah has told me that estimates were being jacked up and inflated estimates were being done. He has asked me to speak to experts and prevent such inflated estimates."

On Sunday, former Minister Basavaraj Rayaraddi urged Mr. Siddaramaiah to set up a commission to probe into irregularities committed by the previous BJP government.

Shivakumar harks back to Veerendra Patil episode

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Sunday claimed that he was the one who informed about the illness of the then Chief Minister, the late Veerendra Patil, to the then Prime Minister the late Rajiv Gandhi, in 1989.

"It was during the riots in Ramanagara and Channapatna that Rajiv Gandhi held a peace meeting. Later when he asked me what was happening, I informed him about the illness of Patil, who had suffered a paralytic stroke. Next day when there was a discussion on the change of leadership at Kumara Krupa, some of us indicated the name of the late S. Bangarappa," he said here at a function organised to mark the death anniversary of Rajiv Gandhi.

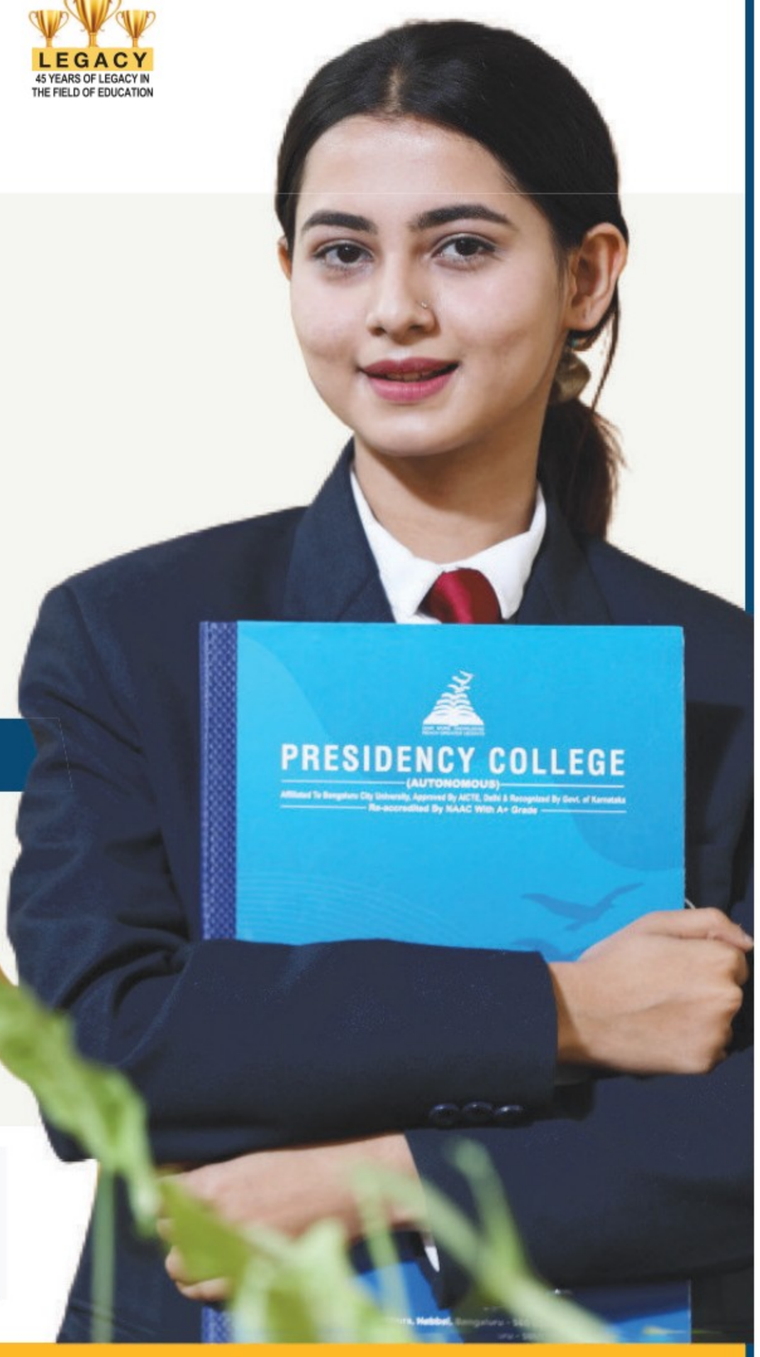
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah with Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar at a programme to pay tribute to former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on his death anniversary, in Bengaluru on Sunday. PTI

Later, he said, "When we intimated the developments to Bangarappa, he scolded us. But we had offered the suggestion only keeping in view the health of Patil."

Claiming that Rajiv Gandhi was not a person who troubled anyone, Mr. Shivakumar said: "At the airport, Rajiv Gandhi announced that the Chief Minister would be changed in the light of Patil's illness. Some accused that Patil was insulted. However, we (Congress) appointed him KPCC president and got a mandate of 179 seats under him. He became the Chief Minister, but a decision had to be taken due to his health condition."

PRESIDENCY COLLEGE
(AUTONOMOUS) ACCREDITED BY NAAC WITH 'A+'
Affiliated To Bengaluru City University, Approved By AICTE, Delhi & Recognized By Govt. of Karnataka
GAIN MORE KNOWLEDGE REACH GREATER HEIGHTS
LEGACY 45 YEARS OF LEGACY IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION

Inspire! Empower! Excel!
beyou
Boundless energy, go-getting drive, the will to leave Your imprint on the world. Welcome to the college that understands. BeYou. And then some more.



UNDER GRADUATE PROGRAMMES

Bachelor of Commerce
[Spl. in Auditing and Taxation, Finance and Capital Markets, Banking and Insurance, E-Commerce and Supply, Chain Management, Data Analytics]

Bachelor of Business Administration
[Spl. in Finance, Marketing, Human Resources, Digital Marketing, Business Analytics, E-Commerce and Supply Chain]

Bachelors in Computer Application
[Spl. in Artificial Intelligence, Data Science]

Bachelors of Arts
[Spl. in Dual Major Programme]
· Journalism, Psychology, Political Science
· English Language and Literature

POST GRADUATE PROGRAMMES

Master of Computer Application
[Spl. in Web Technologies, Data Science, AI and ML, Cyber Security]

Master of Commerce (F&A)
[Spl. in Finance, Accounting]

Master of Business Administration
[Spl. in Finance, Marketing, Human Resources, Business Analytics]

INDIA TODAY · THE WEEK · Outlook · GHRDC · EW EducationWorld
TOP RANKING INSTITUTE BY INDIA TODAY, THE WEEK, OUTLOOK, GHRDC & EDUCATION WORLD SURVEYS

Industry Interface · Master Classes · Field Visits · Value Added Programs · Fests · DSA (Sports & Extracurricular activities) · Produced 16 university rank holders in the last 3 years

SCAN QR CODE FOR MORE INFO.

ADMISSIONS 2023-24 +91-95139-62949
+91-80692-48989 / 080-42478700 I presidencycollege.ac.in I Campus @ Kempapura, Hebbal, Bengaluru-560024, Karnataka, India

Sufficient water to last through June in Cauvery basin dams

CNNL officials are confident that drinking water supply will not be affected. Besides, Hemavathi reservoir in Gorur has sufficient storage to last through any crisis. Water level on Sunday was 2,895 ft as against the maximum level of 2,922 ft

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Notwithstanding the plummeting water levels in major reservoirs in the Cauvery basin in the State, the current storage is sufficient to meet the drinking water requirements through June, according to sources in the Cauvery Neeravari Nigam Ltd (CNNL).

The water level at the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) across the river Cauvery was 84.22 feet against the Full Reservoir Level (FRL) of 124.80 feet on Sunday, May 21, 2023. The water level in the reservoir on the same day last year was 103.80 feet. The gross storage capacity of the reservoir is 49.45 tmc ft against which the available quantum was 12.77 tmc ft on Sunday while 23.14 tmc ft of water was available on the same day last year.

A file photo of Krishnaraja Sagar whose water level stood at 84.22 ft. on Sunday.

Drinking water
Though it may appear to be alarming that the water level is dipping fast and could herald a crisis, authorities have dispelled fears of drinking water scarcity in any of the towns and cities including Bengaluru and Mysuru which depend on KRS and Kabini to meet their requirement. Bengaluru alone requires about 1.25 tmc ft to 1.5 tmc ft of water per month while Mysuru and other towns require nearly 1 tmc ft.

But with the Southwest Monsoon just a fortnight away and the inflow to the dam beginning to accrue soon after, the concerns over low storage is non-issue though levels have been particularly low this year, said CNNL sources.

Assuming the worst case scenario of not a single drop of rain lashing the catchment areas all through June, then the existing quantum can be managed for drinking water purpose, the sources added.

Authorities confident
Besides, Hemavathi reservoir in Gorur in Hassan district has sufficient storage to last through any crisis. The water level at the Hemavathi on Sunday was 2,895 ft against the maximum level of 2,922 ft and the gross storage capacity of the dam is 37.10 ft. But the available storage was 17.46 tmc ft, sufficient to act as a buffer.

Water discharged from Hemavathi flows into the KRS, making the authorities confident of meeting the drinking water requirements of urban settlements in the Cauvery basin. The water level at Kabini in HD Kote was 2,251.84 ft against the maximum level of 2,284 ft and live storage was 4.59 tmc ft. The Harangi dam in Kushalnagar has 1.89 tmc ft of water and the water level was 2,819.73 ft against the FRL of 2,859 ft.

The onset of Southwest Monsoon is less than two weeks away and the Indian Meteorological Department has forecast normal rains with 96% of the Long Period Average. Hence, the authorities are confident that source will not be affected and hiccups, if any, could be due to distribution issues.

Four killed in road accident in Telangana

The Hindu Bureau
MEDAK

Four persons were killed and two seriously injured in a road accident at Vallur village in Medak district of Telangana on Sunday morning.

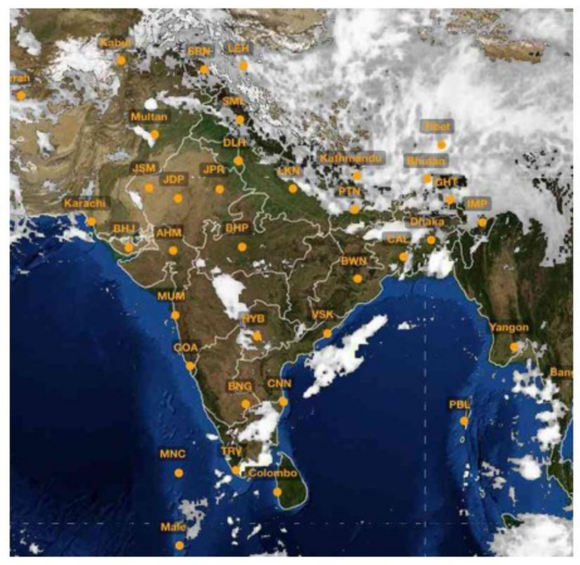
All of them belong to a single family which had migrated from Gajwel to Alur village of Armoor mandal in Nizambad district a few years ago.

Hit by car
According to the police, the six persons were travelling from Alur to Gajwel in an autorickshaw, which was hit by a car from behind, killing four on the spot. Those killed in the accident were identified as Shekhar (45), Yashwant (11) from Alur, Manemma (60) and Balanarsaiah (65) from Gajwel. Two others, Kavitha and Avinash, were seriously injured and shifted to the nearby Ramayampet hospital.

Probe on
The car driver allegedly fled the spot. The Telangana Police have registered a case and launched an investigation.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam and Meghalaya. Thunderstorm with lightning and gusty winds likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal; with lightning & gusty winds likely at isolated places over Jharkhand, West Bengal, Sikkim, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	36.8	26.0	Kozhikode	—	36.8	28.8
Ahmedabad	—	42.8	28.7	Kurnool	—	40.6	29.1
Aizawl	0.7	33.5	18.5	Lucknow	—	43.2	25.3
Allahabad	—	45.7	25.0	Madurai	—	39.6	26.8
Bengaluru	30.0	33.4	21.2	Mangaluru	—	34.5	27.2
Bhopal	—	42.6	27.5	Mumbai	—	33.6	27.0
Bhubaneswar	—	39.5	27.2	Mysuru	—	—	—
Chandigarh	—	40.8	23.2	New Delhi	—	44.0	23.2
Chennai	—	37.3	27.9	Patna	—	41.8	26.2
Coimbatore	—	36.2	25.2	Port Blair	—	34.0	26.0
Dehradun	—	35.5	19.8	Puducherry	—	36.2	28.4
Gangtok	47.0	21.6	13.5	Pune	—	39.6	23.4
Goa	—	35.0	26.3	Raipur	—	40.8	25.0
Guwahati	13.0	31.5	21.4	Ranchi	—	40.8	26.1
Hubballi	—	39.0	24.0	Shillong	6.0	24.5	13.8
Hyderabad	—	40.3	26.9	Shimla	—	26.8	17.0
Imphal	2.0	32.5	19.1	Srinagar	—	29.8	12.0
Jaipur	—	43.0	30.2	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.7	27.1
Kochi	—	32.4	27.2	Tiruchi	—	39.3	27.6
Kohima	—	23.5	14.8	Vijayawada	4.0	38.6	24.4
Kolkata	—	35.2	29.0	Visakhapatnam	—	33.8	28.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.11	.17	.24	119	124	
Bengaluru	.26	.11	100	65	80	
Chennai	2	110	117	78	71	
Delhi	—	209	.55	269	319	
Hyderabad	6	.20	.30	74	103	
Kolkata	.14	.16	.21	58	58	
Lucknow	.15	.44	.32	239	187	
Mumbai	.32	.13	.13	24	155	
Pune	111	158	115	117	97	
Visakhapatnam	—	—	.18	—	—	

Yesterday
In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Manesar, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 270 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Sivasagar, Assam recorded a healthy AQI score of 17

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Siddaramaiah makes a surprise appearance at grandson's graduation ceremony

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah with his grandson, Dhawan, and officials of Canadian International School during his visit there on Sunday.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Students at Canadian International School here had a surprise guest in Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, when he turned up at the graduation ceremony of the class of 2023 on Sunday.

Among the 68 graduating students was his grandson, Dhawan Rakesh, who has passed out of Class 12 from the school.

Tweet
Mr. Siddaramaiah said on his personal Twitter handle, "My grandson completed his Class 12 from @cisblearns and the school had organised a farewell for the graduating class of 2023 at the Canadian International School. I was happy to be part of the event."

Interest in politics
Dhawan is the son of Rakesh, who was being groomed to take forward Mr. Siddaramaiah's political legacy. However, he met with an untimely death in 2016. Dhawan was last seen publicly with his grandfather in Varuna constituency during one of his campaigns. Mr. Siddaramaiah had then said that his grandson appeared to be interested in politics, but has a long way to go since he was only 17 and wanted to study law.

Guest
The graduation ceremony had writer and Padma Bhushan awardee Sudha Murty addressing the students.

Siddaramaiah asks police to withdraw zero-traffic protocol

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bringing relief to motorists in Bengaluru, who already experience a harrowing time in traffic, the newly sworn in Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday asked the Bengaluru police to withdraw the zero-traffic protocol extended to his convoy.

In a tweet, he said: "I have asked Bengaluru City Police Commissioner to take back the 'Zero Traffic' protocol for my vehicular movement. I have taken the decision after seeing the problems faced by the people travelling along the stretch where there are restrictions due to zero traffic."

Earlier action
In August 2021, former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, days after being sworn in, had decided not to take zero-traffic protocol and directed the city police to implement the same.

In August 2021, Bommai, days after being sworn in as CM, had decided not to take zero-traffic protocol and directed the city police to implement the same

No garlands, only books
The Chief Minister has also announced that he would not be accepting garlands and bouquets at functions and people could give him books, if they wish, instead.

Dhankhar arrives in Kerala

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, who arrived in Kerala for a two-day visit, will inaugurate the silver jubilee celebration of the Kerala Legislative Assembly building on Monday.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

REMEMBRANCE

In loving memory of

Krishnamoorthy Chandra

Date of Death - 22 May 2021

No farewell words were spoken, there was no time to say goodbye. You were gone like a shooting star, flying across the sky, so fast, so far even before we knew it. But you will remain in our hearts forever.

Loving family

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

104th BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

T.K. DURAISWAMI
22.05.1919 - 10.07.2012
PRATHAMA ACHARYA PURUSHA
Retired Senior Accounts Officer, A.G's Office
Fondly remembered by :
Smt.Vijaya & Sri.N.S. Mohanram
Smt.Vatsala & Sri.V A Raghu
Sri.T.K. Balaji & Smt.Sheela Balaji
Smt.Mala & Sri.S. Ramakrishnan
Brothers, Sister, Grand Children & Great Grand Children

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

8th ANNIVERSARY

Mrs.DAMAYANTI RAJADURAI
Retired Professor
V.V.V College for Women,Virudhunagar
Expired on 22.05.2015
Fondly Remembered by:-
Dr.R.Arunmozhimaran
M.S.Ortho
& Family

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

In loving memory of
Smt Geetha Venkataraman
(W/o Late Sri. C.H.Venkataraman)
19 Dec 1950 to 22 May 2021
Remembering you Amma.
You taught us to love unconditionally, and give unconditionally.
Watch over us as we try to live by these words.
Shobha, Shubha, Balaji

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No.SEE/TWM/SMG/EE(O)/AEEE-2/2023-24/F-Tender/1019-1023 Dated : 18.05.2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH E-PROCUREMENT MODE ONLY)

KPTCL invites tenders through e-Procurement mode from the reputed Electrical Contractors possessing Super Grade Electrical contractor License having PF registration for the following work of **Replacement of 1x10MVA, 110/11KV Power Transformer by 1x20MVA, 110/11KV Power Transformer at 110/11KV Sub-Station, Kittadahalli in Shikaripura Taluk, Shivamogga District Work Code : CD1086 (CALL-5).**
For detailed information and to participate in the tender through e-Procurement mode please visit our website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** hyperlink "e-procurement" or directly you can access the tendering website **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **11.00 AM on 22.05.2023.** Any other details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer, Elecl., Transmission (W&M), Circle, KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavana, MRS Colony, Shivamogga-577203

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE VISIT
www.thehinduads.com
CALL: Bengaluru: 98455 29981 • 080-22071826
Mangaluru: 0824-2417575 • 2417580 • Hubballi: 0836-2338600 • 2335700

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, SANGAIAH, S/o. Kallaiah Hirematha, R/o. No.2175, 8th Mn,2nd Stg, E Blk, Rajajinagar, Blr–10, have changed my name to Sangaiah Kallaiah Hirematha vide afdvt dtd 20/05/2023

EDUCATIONAL
GENERAL

INDIA'S BEST CLAT COACHING
ADMISSION OPEN
DROPPER'S BATCH
For 12th completed students
LAW PREP Tutorial
CLAT Prep at it's Best!
GET 50% SCHOLARSHIP ON TUITION FEES
NEW BATCH STARTING FROM 7th MAY
8 Months OFFLINE ONLINE PROGRAM
GNANANKIT NLSIU | SAI ESHWAR NLSIU | SANATH NLSIU
NAMMA BENGALURU CENTERS : JAYANAGAR | VIJAYANAGAR | MALLESHWARAM
9742376459 9731212124
OTHER CITIES : JODHPUR | JAIPUR | DELHI | BHOPAL | LUCKNOW | KANPUR | PRAYAGRAJ | DEHRADUN | RANCHI | JABALPUR | MUZZAFARPUR | PATNA | GURGAON

EDUCATIONAL
GENERAL

CADD Nest®
Nation | Energetic | Success | Technology
Job Oriented Software Training for
• Full Stack Developer • C, C++, Java / Python / Data Science / AI / ML • Data Analytics • Tally Prime / Advanced Excel • SAP FICO / MM / SD / Civil / Architectural CADD • Mechanical CADD / Interior Design • Digital Marketing • Spoken English • Hardware & Networking • Animation / Graphic / Web Designing • Handwriting / Calligraphy
Contact: 9740444363 / 9740442121 / 080-41608308
www.caddnest.org

ANTHRO VAID SIR'S
Online(Live) & Offline Batch
Starting June 8 | Admissions May 31
Live Interaction
On May 25 at 11 am
On Youtube.com/c/VaidsICSDelhi
For Zoom Interactive session, Register at www.vaidsics.com
VAID'S ICS, DELHI
For Exclusive Current Affairs Updates from VAIDS SIR join t.me/vaidsicsofficial

UPSC / IAS
ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಜಿ KSG
An Institute For IAS Exam...
Celebrating CRYSTAL JUBILEE OF KSG
Special Offer!
FLAT ₹50,000* OFF
*Offer Valid Till 17th May 2023
FOUNDATION COURSE
ADVANCE FOUNDATION COURSE
A1, 2nd Floor, Mamoor Plaza, Above Airtel Office, 2nd Cross Road, 5th Block, Koramangala, BENGALURU
76191 66663 080-48544393
www.ksgbengaluru.com
Scan QR Code For Details...

Capital quandary

Delhi's quest for administrative autonomy is hostage to BJP-AAP rivalry

The Centre has through an ordinance overturned a Supreme Court judgment of May 11 that held that the elected government of the National Capital Territory of Delhi had executive and legislative powers over its officials. The move has set in motion a new legal battle. The AAP government in Delhi has decided to challenge the ordinance, while the BJP government at the Centre has moved the Court to review its judgment. The National Capital Territory of Delhi Act (NCTD), 1991 created a unique administrative unit, and judicial interpretations have never completely resolved the conflicts between the Centre and the elected government of the NCTD all these years. The judgment held that Union Territories with a Legislative Assembly of their own are comparable to States, and their government's executive powers would extend to all matters on which they are allowed to make laws. In Delhi's case, law and order and land remained with the Centre, unlike other States. The Court also pointed out the absence of a law on services, and the lack of oversight by elected representatives over the officials under the present scheme. The ordinance purportedly removes the basis of the judgment by creating the National Capital Civil Service Authority. The Chief Minister is the chair, with the Chief Secretary and Principal Secretary, Home – both appointed by the central government – as members. The Central reclaimed all powers it lost in the judgment.

The Centre is well within its powers to overturn a judicial pronouncement through legislation. Whether the basis of the instant judgment has been removed by the ordinance remains an open question, but the more pertinent issue is the political intent of the Centre's move. The Centre under the current BJP dispensation has been confrontational, rather than cooperative, with States in resolving governance issues. It has shown little regard for elected governments at lower levels, while claiming for itself all powers on the grounds of its electoral majority. Delhi being the national capital has to maintain a unique administrative character, and it should not be left to the exigencies of local politics. Equally, the voters of Delhi cannot be disenfranchised for extraneous reasons. The irony is that AAP itself has been a votary of centralisation, though it could swing to provincialism to suit its leaders in a changed situation. The AAP government had resorted to provincialist rhetoric in the past, also going to the extent of questioning the rights of people from other States to access health care and education in the national capital. It was also a cheerleader of the Centre's brazen move that dismantled the State of Jammu and Kashmir into two Union Territories. Democracy and federalism are threatened by an unprincipled hunger for power, and AAP is both villain and victim.

Judging *jallikattu*

Verdict upholds cultural sentiment, but animal rights, human safety matter too

A rural sport seen by courts for years as one inflicting cruelty on animals has now received judicial *imprimatur*. An upsurge in popular support for *jallikattu* led to legislative changes in early 2017, exempting it from the rigours of the law against animal cruelty. Six years after the amendments ended a Court-ordered ban, the Supreme Court has upheld the changes made by the Tamil Nadu Assembly, as well as the cultural sentiment behind *jallikattu*, a traditional sport in which men try to control raging bulls. There has been an endless conflict between activists and proponents of the game, which culminated in a 2014 Court judgment banning the sport. The activists argue that any sport involving a physical contest between man and bull violates animal rights, while the other camp contends that none should stop something that is part of the State's tradition and culture. The State government responded to the ban by amending the central Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, in its application to the State, and obtained the President's assent. A Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court has now settled the issue, ruling in favour of *jallikattu* as a cultural event.

The verdict of the five-judge Bench is anchored to two key findings. That the fresh regulations minimise the game's potential for cruelty and pain formed the basis for the 2014 judgment. Those conditions were no more prevalent. Second, the Court has accepted the legislature's view that *jallikattu* is a sport conducted every year to follow tradition and culture. It has accepted the legislature's wisdom on what constitutes cultural heritage, holding that the Court cannot embark on such an inquiry. However, it does not mean the Court has in any way diluted the part of the earlier Bench's verdict reading into Indian law the full import of international rules in favour of animal rights. Rather, it has deferred to the cultural sentiment underlying the legislative scheme by which sports such as *jallikattu*, *kambala*, a buffalo race in Karnataka, and bullock-cart racing in Maharashtra are not interdicted by the law preventing animal cruelty. This means organisers as well as the respective governments, still bear the burden to prevent infliction of pain and cruelty on animals. These sports also pose an undeniable hazard to humans too; to the participants mainly, but sometimes spectators too. It may be time for organisers to mandate protective gear for the participants and strictly enforce rules for proper barricades to keep spectators safe. Cultural assertion, and kindness to animals and adherence to safety norms need not be mutually exclusive.

Manipur mayhem, a manufactured schism

A. Bimol Akoijam

teaches social-political psychology and sociology at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Manipur is no stranger to the scourge of massacres. In the infamous 'Naga-Kuki clash' of the 1990s, hundreds of innocents were slaughtered, not for what they did but because of who they were. In that protracted carnage amongst the 'tribal' communities of Manipur, places of worship and villages were razed to the ground and thousands rendered homeless. When it came to these Christian communities, the Biblical teaching 'love thy neighbour' was of no use in what was politically motivated genocidal violence. That spectre of a bloodbath has returned to haunt Manipur again, this time between the 'Kukis' and the Meiteis.

Incidentally, the 'Kukis' have been involved in such clashes with their neighbours across the years. Besides the infamous clash with the Nagas in the 1990s, there have been violent conflicts with the Dimasa (2003) and the Karbis (2004) in Assam, and with the Paites (1997-98) in Manipur.

So, what has led to this latest round of carnage involving the 'Kukis'? Many commentators have mentioned the demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status by the Meiteis, and the attempt of the State government to 'survey' forest areas and 'evict illegal' occupants from the 'protected forest' being some of the 'sparks'. But then, for the spark(s) to be produced and to turn into an inferno, there needs to be material. That material is the manufactured divide: the 'hill-valley divide' in Manipur. This contrived reality has to be taken as a historical a priori to understand the present carnage. For, it is a past that lives in the present that, to borrow from Michel Foucault, 'cast[s] a shadow'".

A topographical divide

At the root of the divide is the invented topographical dichotomy between two geographical features of a landscape (*viz.*, 'hill' and 'valley') belonging to the same elevated mountainous fold formed by the collision between the 'Indian plate' and the 'Eurasian plate'. Imphal and the districts in Manipur (Churachanpur, Ukhrul, Chandel) and neighbouring States of Nagaland and Mizoram are parts of the same elevated mountainous fold, while the Brahmaputra valley is a part of the 'depression' created by the said collision.

The erstwhile Planning Commission classified States such as Nagaland, Manipur and Mizoram as 'hill states' while Assam was a 'state with hill areas'. And yet, when one talks of 'Imphal valley' (790 metres) and its relationship with the 'hills' of Manipur (e.g., Churachanpur which is around 922 m), it is presented as if it is part of the same relationship that exists between the Brahmaputra valley/Guwahati (roughly 50 m) and Kohima (1,444m) or Aizwal (1,132m).

The British introduced this false topographical perspective in Manipur by extending a scheme that differentiated the Brahmaputra valley from the Naga and Lushai Hills in then Assam. However, the distinction brought about by the British was primarily in terms of 'population' rather than 'territory'. Thus, while revenues were generated from both the hills and valleys in Manipur (e.g., house tax), the people were divided and governed under different regimes of law. Indeed, informed by the colonial anthropological episteme and strategic calculation, this geographical misrepresentation was further consolidated by classifying a section of the people as 'hill tribes' who were governed by a separate set of criminal and civil laws of the State of Manipur, irrespective of whether they lived in the hills or valleys.

> Nowhere in the country have such abnormal and fabricated divisions been officially created and nurtured among a minuscule population belonging to the same ethno-linguistic family

The post-colonial Indian state, far from reversing the colonial schemes, has not only reproduced but also expanded these false dichotomies during the 1950s and early 1970s. Thus, the colonial category of 'hill tribes' has been re-rendered as 'scheduled tribes' (ST) and the rest as general category (later on, many of these people have been reclassified as Other Backward Classes) along with a small section, as Scheduled Castes. In fact, this has accentuated the division among the people by introducing a division of land though pieces of legislation such as the Manipur Land Revenue and Land Reforms Act, 1960 and Article 371C. Even the State legislature was also divided by introducing a 'mini assembly' – ironically called 'Hill Area Committee' – within the Assembly of a 'hill State'.

Nowhere in the country, perhaps even in the entire world, have such abnormal and fabricated divisions been officially created and nurtured among a minuscule population belonging to the same ethno-linguistic family inhabiting a small and compact mountainous region. Over the years, this anomalous and concocted divide has come to shape and characterises what Charles Taylor calls 'social imaginary' – that is, 'the ways people imagine their social existence, how they fit with others' in the State. Consequently, the topographical reality of 'hills-valleys' that mark a mountainous terrain has become 'hills and valley' inhabited by 'different peoples'. Such 'social imaginary' feeds, and is fed by, a political culture that disenables the people in the State from realising and pursuing common goods.

The role of politics

Moreover, the dynamics of competitive politics of electoral democracy in the State have sharpened the divide. Politicians and some social elites, particularly among the STs, have manipulated people's sentiments by creating a communal narrative that blames the Meiteis for the imagined and real differential development patterns in the State. Often comparing the district headquarters with Imphal, the capital city, whose inhabitants (36% of the entire population of the State) include tribal, non-tribal and people from outside the State, the argument of 'valley' depriving 'hill areas' has been propagated. Such communally motivated articulations have sidelined the real issues seen in matters of (under) development such as topography, demographic factors, law and order, shortcomings of a 'top down and one size fits all' model of planning, and, importantly, the cascading effects of a neo-patrimonial socio-economic structure in the State.

Such a communal narrative has been used to articulate a 'politics of redistribution' during electioneering as well as in sectarian mobilisations, especially of an ethno-nationalist variety which is mostly based on exclusivist tribal identities. These mobilisations have a corresponding articulation of territoriality. Thus, irrespective of the fluidity these identities are, or the familiar anthropological contradiction between 'tribe' as a conceptual category and the empirical reality on the ground (on who belongs to which tribe and multiple expressions of hyphenated identities) or the shifting and arbitrary nature of the territoriality (often seen in overlapping or different cartographical representations), these mobilisations have produced genocidal violence that Manipur has seen. The violence that erupted on May 3, 2023 has all the signatures of politically motivated massacres.

Indeed, the carnage fits the description of genocidal violence – the effort to mark out a territory and cleansing the 'other' from that space. And the timing and sequence of unfolding events point to what Paul Brass called Institutionalised Riot Systems involving a preparatory phase of activities (e.g., desecration of sacred religious sites at Koubru and Thangjing to violent activities in the run-up to the eruption of violence on May 3); activation represented by the burning down of a forest office as the rally wound up and the burning of tyres at a memorial gate as a 'signal' (a likely 'false flag'); the near simultaneous burning down of houses at Torbung, Moreh, etc., hours before mobs run riot in Imphal, to the phase of explanation involving hectic efforts to 'control' the narrative of 'causes' and 'blame displacement' involving 'social scientists' in the mainstream and social media.

Orchestrated violence invariably has some beneficiaries and goal(s). The carnage cannot serve the interests of those who speak of co-existence of communities and the integrity of the State. But it can very well serve sectarian interests.

Incidentally, even as the violence has subsided in the valley, and attacks on Meitei villages in the periphery continue, there are demands for 'asymmetrical federation', 'decentralisation', 'separate administration', and talk of restricting tribal people from residing in the 'valley' (as articulated by a Kuki MLA in a web-portal). Only an impartial judicial inquiry can find out the sequence of events and fix responsibility.

India as a Quad-led biomanufacturing hub

Shambhavi Naik

is a researcher at the Takshashila Institution

Saurabh Todi

is a researcher at the Takshashila Institution

In March 2021, the Quad (Australia, India, Japan, and the United States) set up a Critical and Emerging Technology Working Group to facilitate cooperation, monitor trends, and scout for opportunities related to developments in critical and emerging technologies, that included biotechnology. However, the potential for Quad cooperation in biotechnology remains insufficiently tapped. The establishment of a Quad-led biomanufacturing hub in India will give the necessary fillip to enhance this cooperation. (The writers have examined this proposal with researchers at the Australian National University.)

Biomanufacturing uses living systems, particularly microorganisms and cell cultures, to produce molecules and materials on a commercial scale. It has the potential to transform the global industrial system, with up to 60% of physical inputs to the global economy expected to be producible using this technology. Many countries, including the United States and China, recognise the need to optimise this ecosystem and have designed specific policies to shape their bio-economies.

The Quad and complementary strengths

India's National Biotechnology Development Strategy also envisions the country as a "Global Biomanufacturing Hub" by 2025. While the strategy sets a target of $100 billion for the hub, it is important to recognise that India's ambitions require external support, particularly through its Quad partners, to enable its initial development.

Specifically, the Quad should establish a biomanufacturing hub in India to benefit from the country's economic potential and address supply-chain vulnerabilities. Quad nations have complementary strengths that can be leveraged to create this hub. The U.S. has significant funding capability, while all three (Japan, Australia and the U.S.) also possess advanced biotechnology innovation ecosystems and intellectual property. India has skilled manpower and the potential to provide affordable scale.

> India is an ideal choice because of its existing infrastructure, pharmaceutical manufacturing expertise, and workforce

Indeed, India is the ideal choice to host the biomanufacturing hub thanks to its existing infrastructure, pharmaceutical manufacturing expertise, and the available workforce. According to the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, India is among the top performers in the field of biomanufacturing in both the quality of research output and in the share among research publications. India also has significant potential in low-cost biomanufacturing, particularly in the production of enzymes, reagents, research materials, and equipment. According to at least one analysis, the cost of manufacturing in India is around 33% lower when compared to that in the U.S. However, India still requires significant capability and capacity uplifts to become a world leader.

Strengthening physical infrastructure

India also aims to become a leading biomanufacturing hub with plans to increase fermentation capacity tenfold to 10 million litres in the next three to five years. China has also expressed its intention to capture this market, similar to how it dominated small-molecule active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs). In fact, concerns about China's dominance in APIs pushed India to launch a production-linked incentive scheme that allocated $2 billion to the pharmaceutical sector to make biopharmaceuticals, APIs, key starting materials, and related products.

Such dependence in the biomanufacturing sector will be detrimental to both India and the Quad. The proposed hub can help facilitate technology transfer, connect investors, and establish a biomanufacturing fund that is administered through the Quad, to support India's efforts to reduce dependency on China.

Boosting workforce, lowering barriers

To scale up the biomanufacturing sector, India needs to uplift its workforce quality. While there are many life science professionals in the country, they lack access to cutting-edge technology and training. To address this, permanent training facilities can be established in universities around the Quad hub, with experts from other Quad countries providing the training. Recent policy changes in India allow the establishment of foreign universities and can encourage scholar exchange programmes. Training should also focus on commercialising research and development, a common challenge for non-U.S. countries in the Quad. To facilitate cross-Quad collaboration, the biomanufacturing hub can house all current bilateral government efforts and establish a research collaboration office for this purpose. The hub can also harmonise language, regulations, and data-sharing regarding biomanufacturing to secure supply chains for Quad nations and facilitate international collaboration. Such streamlining will boost collaboration efforts within the Quad and create opportunities for collaboration with nations outside the Quad as well.

The proposed hub in India can capitalise on the economic potential of the biomanufacturing industry and address existing and potential vulnerabilities in the global system. India can become a leading player in the field of biomanufacturing and help the Quad to compete in this key area.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Flight of the ₹2,000 note

While demonetisation, of ₹500 and ₹1,000 notes, announced by the BJP government on November 8, 2016 was a blunder, the introduction of the ₹2,000 note thereafter was an even bigger blunder. It has been alleged that the introduction of the higher denomination of ₹2,000 only helped the rich and black money holders to hoard their ill-gotten money easily. That ₹2,000 notes have been missing in circulation for long is enough of a clue that the rich and black money holders stashed them away and must have converted them into other valuable assets including gold. Once again, it is only the common man, small traders and vendors and small industrialists who are going to suffer on account of a 'consistently inconsistent' ruling dispensation.

Tharcius S. Fernando,
Chennai

It is pertinent to mention here that the fight against black marketeers/hoarders can only succeed and reach its logical conclusion only if the government of the day initiates effective steps to target the illegal unaccounted money of 'elite Indians' stashed abroad in foreign banks and brings the offenders to book. It can thus be concluded that the Union government's decision to withdraw the ₹2,000 note is a tacit admission of its skewed economic policy that demolished the rural economy. The latest move is a gimmick ahead of 2024.

B. Suresh Kumar,
Coimbatore

Kerala curios

In our country, there is no paucity of slogans highlighting the need for promoting locally made products. But, in reality, whenever one goes shopping, it is not uncommon to come across a vast array of "Made in China" products. It is local hand-made traditional products that find it very hard to compete with foreign goods because of the cost factor. One hopes that the Kerala project (Page 1, May 21) will motivate more States to come up with similar schemes to benefit local artisans.

A. Venkatasubramanian,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Hijacking G-20's civil society forum

Ashish Kothari

is an environmental activist based in Pune. Views expressed are personal.

Imagine a global civil society event in which the first several rows of the audience are occupied by saffron-clad members of a single religion, and whose coordination is in the hands of institutions from the same religion. Well, you do not have to imagine too hard, because this is the reality of C-20, the official civil society process of G-20, since India has taken over the latter's presidentship. The C-20 process has been co-opted by the party in power in a not-so-subtle attempt at furthering its own politico-religious vision, giving it a very thin veneer of civil society respectability. This dangerous deception is combined with another one where G-20's focus on neoliberal economics is attempted to be covered by a green fig leaf called the 'green economy', and pliable NGOs are being called in to legitimise it.

I learnt this the hard way when I recently agreed to be on a panel to discuss the role of civil society in biodiversity conservation, being organised by a prominent university, as part of the C-20 process. I told the organisers upfront that I will be critical of G-20 and C-20 in my remarks as I think they are being used as platforms to push for policies and actions that are anti-biodiversity and against the interests of communities most dependent on nature. I was told that they had no problems with me raising issues about economic policies, etc., as long as I did not make 'political' statements about G-20 and C-20, and remained objective. I politely refused to accept such censorship and we agreed that I should drop out of the panel.

As a forum providing space for civil society to discuss issues relevant to the economic, social, cultural issues that the G-20 forum takes up, C-20 has been around since 2008. It has a statement of principles, finalised in 2019, which includes its mandate to 'hold governments accountable' and be a counter-balance to undue business influence.

> A forum that is meant to provide an independent voice against the abuse of power has been hijacked

Unfortunately, the various 'engagement' forums of G-20 such as C-20 have hardly been allowed to play the independent role they were envisaged to. G-20 has been a powerful platform for pursuing exploitative neoliberal policies built into economic globalisation, and the entry of countries such as India has been more a way of appearing to create a balance of power between the north and south than actually enabling it. In such a situation, hardly any country in the G-20 would encourage truly independent civil society processes.

It is, therefore, unlikely that C-20 was ever considered to be independent enough to be a critical mirror to G-20 or enabled the involvement of radical people's movements, including those that dissent from the government of their host countries. But the way it has been set up in India, it seems to have hit a new low of kowtowing to the government. Digging a bit further into the C-20 architecture, I found out that its Secretariat is housed in the Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini, a 40-year-old civil society organisation (CSO) focused on leadership development. Rambhau Mhalgi was a Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) publicist. The Steering Committee of C-20 has six Indians (out of nine members), of which four are from religious organisations and they all belong to the same religion – no prizes for guessing which.

No one can have objections to there being religious membership of the C-20 coordination, but why such an overpowering presence, and why of only one religion? The C-20's official tagline is '#YouAreTheLight' – is light to be found only in religion, and that too in only one of the many that find their home in India? This is in violation of one of the core elements of C-20 principles: "inclusiveness: C-20 is a space for meaningful exchange and cross-country collaboration, which does not tolerate any form of discrimination."

In a statement put out in early March, over 100 CSOs and independent scholars, activists, journalists, and others pointed to the way in which India could have used its G-20 presidentship to promote a global world order that furthers justice and sustainability. But instead, the statement said that the Indian government was using it "as an opportunity to seek political and electoral gains before the upcoming national elections. The scale at which the G-20 meetings are being organised to portray a picture-perfect narrative of shining India reeks of a vulgar display of wealth at a time when India's performance on every social barometer is abysmal... In the run-up to scheduled G-20 meetings in different cities of India, government authorities are displacing the homeless people to far-flung areas, removing street vendors, and small shops from the roadsides to 'beautify' the cities".

The gross distortion of the C-20 forum is part of the same abuse of power. This goes hand-in-glove with the ruling party's spin doctors churning out G-20 slogans that hide the reality in India. For instance, taking pride in India being the 'mother of democracy', while its government is rapidly cracking down on dissent and freedom of speech; or talking of the country's traditions of harmony with nature's five elements, while systematically dismantling laws protecting its ecological integrity; or 'promoting our cultural and religious diversity', while encouraging extreme right-wing Hindutva forces to carry out heinous actions against religious minorities. Double-speak is the order of the day, and a forum that is meant to provide an independent voice against the abuse of power has been hijacked.

The CSOs who are participating in C-20, and there are many well-meaning and committed ones, need to introspect on whether they will legitimise this highway robbery, or challenge it.

Controversies roil Telangana's universities

The government's lackadaisical approach is partly to blame

STATE OF PLAY

R. Ravikanth Reddy
ravikanth.ramasayam@thehindu.co.in

Universities are considered knowledge powerhouses built on intellectual debates and a fair reflection of ideologies across society. Those heading them have, ideally, elite personas and a respect that few others in the society command, but the recent developments in Telangana universities are in no way a reflection of that.

The developments at the Telangana University in Nizamabad, where the Vice-Chancellor is at loggerheads with the government over the choice of registrar for alleged misappropriation of funds and 'illegal' recruitments, have tarnished the image of the fledgling university. The Executive Council (EC) meeting rejected the V-C's choice, citing a lack of approval and appointed another senior professor.

What followed was a full-blown fight in the public domain between the Collegiate Education Commissioner Navin Mittal and Vice-Chancellor Prof. D. Ravinder Gupta, and the issue ultimately landed in the High Court.

Earlier, Prof. Gupta stirred a controversy dancing with girl students at the women's hostel and also showered currency notes on them. He is also accused of recruiting part-time employees without any norms and clearance from the EC.

Universities in Telangana are plagued by controversies like never before as most universities have similar stories of confrontations among teachers and students. Political pressure and unilateral decisions by Vice-Chancellors

are said to be the root cause of these problems.

Prof. Ravinder Yadav, Vice-Chancellor of the Osmania University, was in the news for his confrontational attitude with regard to certain decisions. He hit the headlines recently for hiking the fee for PhD students from ₹2,500 to ₹25,000 at one go. Last year, he was in news for denying permission to former Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who was invited to deliver a talk on the campus.

Another top university, the Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University, Hyderabad (JNTUH), too is facing problems with the alleged unauthorised appointment of outsourcing employees. The appointment of Professor K. Narasimha Reddy as the Vice-Chancellor itself was shocking to many as he comes from a non-engineering background to head a purely technological university. Many opposed his appointment as he was over 70 years of age and had faced allegations regarding appointments in his earlier stint as the V-C of the Mahatma Gandhi University in Nalgonda.

The Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies (RGUKT), Basara, which was created to admit rural talent into technological courses at par with IIITs, too faced a huge crisis recently with students agitating for over a month seeking laptops, better food and accommodation. The intervention of IT Minister K.T. Rama Rao at the right time saved it from plunging into a bigger crisis.

The situation in other universities is not great either with rifts between the administration and faculty showing up every now and then. Allegations of nepotism and misappropriation of funds are quite common, but there has been little intervention from the government.

Academicians argue that the poisoned atmosphere on campuses is primarily due to the government's inept handling of the institutions, right from the appointment of Vice-Chancellors to undermining the citadels of knowledge with little financial support.

For the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) government, higher education was seldom the top priority and universities that provided the impetus to the Telangana movement were rarely acknowledged for their role. One popular belief is that this is the result of the way that some student groups ill-treated Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhar Rao in the initial years of the government, with constant abuse over delay in job notifications.

The recruitment of teachers is also in limbo with Governor Tamilisai Soundararajan refusing to clear the file on the new method of recruitment. The government has proposed a common recruitment test for all universities, followed by interviews replacing the earlier mode of direct interviews. This is to avoid corrupt practices and curb legal problems.

A fresh and professional approach to the changing times to make the universities more relevant will perhaps set things right. But that needs some conviction and dynamism from the government.

One in seven Indian primary schools run by a lone teacher

Millions of Indian children are still studying in single-teacher schools and there is no excuse for this gross violation of the Right to Education Act

DATA POINT

Rikesh Choudhary
Jean Drèze
Reetika Khera

The primary school in Koday Dih (Giridih district, Jharkhand) has 78 pupils but only one teacher. Also, he is a para teacher with rudimentary training. He manages by distributing the children across two classrooms and alternating between them. When he is busy with administrative or non-teaching duties, which take up a lot of his time, the children just mill around. When he's not present, the school operates as aimlessly as a ship without a rudder.

The school in Koday Dih isn't unique – it's one among many single-teacher schools in Jharkhand. Not far from there, the upper-primary school in Sirsiya has 110 pupils spread over eight grades, but only one teacher. In Jharkhand, the proportion of single-teacher schools at the primary level is close to one third, according to the Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE). The UDISE data is available online. The schools mentioned in this story are run by the Government.

As shown in the table, the proportion of single-teacher schools in India is still a high 14.7%, 14 years after the Right to Education Act came into force, according to UDISE data. The Act states that every school must have at least two teachers. While Jharkhand is a poor performer, a few States had a similar or even higher proportion of single-teacher schools such as Andhra Pradesh (34%), Telangana (30%) and Karnataka (29%). In nine of India's 21 major States, the share of children studying in single-teacher schools was well above 10%, rising to 25% in Jharkhand.

A recent report, 'Gloom in the Classroom', sheds further light on the situation in Jharkhand. The report is based on a survey of 138 randomly-selected primary and upper-primary schools in 16 districts. About one-third of the primary schools had a single teacher. Most of these schools were run by para teachers (all men, except one). The single-teacher schools had 51 pupils on average. Most of them were Dalit and Adivasi children.

In some States, single-teacher schools are likely to have something to do with low population density, scattered settlement patterns and low fertility rates. This applies to Himachal Pradesh, where the proportion of single-teacher schools was high (27%), but the average number of children in these schools was below 20. In Kerala, single-teacher schools seem to be a second-best arrangement for tiny habitations: they had just 10 pupils on average. The proportion of single-teacher schools in Kerala was also low (4%), and so the proportion of children studying in such schools was below 1% – the lowest among major States.

In many States, however, there were plenty of single-teacher schools with a large number of children. On average, single-teacher schools had 39 pupils in Madhya Pradesh, 46 in Jharkhand, 70 in Uttar Pradesh and a whopping 96 in Bihar. Only nine of India's 21 major States had an average pupil-teacher ratio below 30 in single-teacher schools.

These figures make it clear that the issue of single-teacher schools is not the same as that of "mini-schools" (schools with a few students). Before the Right to Education Act, mini-schools were set up to extend school education to sparsely populated areas. After the Act came into force, this option became harder to sustain because of the new norms. Some States tried to merge mini-schools with bigger schools, "rationalisation" as the National Education Policy calls it. The viability of mini-schools is an important issue in its own right, and in some States such as Kerala, it is much the same issue as that of single-teacher schools. In other States, however, most single-teacher schools are not mini-schools at all.

It is possible that the Right to Education Act made it a little harder to avoid single-teacher schools as it requires the presence of a primary school within one kilometre of every habitation. But 14 years is more than enough time to get over this hurdle. The rule that every school should have at least two teachers is reasonable.

Quite likely, the State governments find it convenient to save money by under-staffing schools in underprivileged areas, and know that they can get away with it. In Jharkhand, there have been no teacher appointments since 2016. With each passing year, some teachers retire, making it hard to post more teachers in single-teacher schools. Teacher resistance to remote postings exacerbates the problem.

Last month, an agitation against the proliferation of single-teacher schools took place in Garu block of Latehar district in Jharkhand. This brought to light a critical fact that had already emerged during the COVID-19 crisis: there is a huge unarticulated demand for quality education in rural India. Few parents in Garu had thought of agitating against single-teacher schools or related deficiencies of the schooling system. But when a local organisation took the initiative, people joined in large numbers, taking a day off at the peak of the mahua collection season and travelling long distances.

Similarly, in late 2021, organised protests against prolonged closure of schools in the same area attracted parents who had never spoken up against it on their own.

Around 20 years ago, there was a vibrant movement for the right to education across the country. Paradoxically, the movement seems to have lost steam soon after the Right to Education Act saw the light of day. Perhaps the time has come for a second wave.

One and only

The data is collated from the Unified District Information System for Education (UDISE)

A classroom in a single-teacher school in Latehar, Jharkhand. MANOB CHOWDHARY

Single-teacher schools at the primary level (Major States, 2021-22)

	Proportion of schools with a single teacher (%)	Proportion of children enrolled in single-teacher schools (%)	Average number of pupils in single-teacher schools
Jharkhand	30.9	24.9	46
Karnataka	29	21.2	23
Rajasthan	27.2	18.9	30
Himachal Pradesh	28.2	18.6	19
Madhya Pradesh	21.3	17.3	39
Andhra Pradesh	33.9	15.5	24
Jammu & Kashmir	19	13.9	15
Uttarakhand	27.9	11.9	15
Telangana	30.3	10.7	21
Chhattisgarh	15.3	8.7	34
Punjab	18.2	7.1	32
Bihar	9.7	7.1	96
All major States	14.7	6.9	33
Odisha	8.6	6.6	37
Gujarat	7.2	4.6	34
Assam	8.7	4.3	33
Maharashtra	11.7	4.2	20
Tamil Nadu	8.3	4.1	32
Haryana	7.2	2.8	48
West Bengal	5.2	1.8	29
Uttar Pradesh	2.5	1.5	70
Kerala	**4**	**0.3**	**10**

The figures pertain to government primary schools

Rikesh Choudhary is a researcher at IIT Delhi; Jean Drèze is visiting professor at the Department of Economics, Ranchi University; Reetika Khera is professor of Economics at IIT Delhi

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 22, 1973

China wants U.S. aid in oil exploration

Washington, May 21: China is reported to be showing interest in enlisting the assistance of American oil companies in the exploration and mining of the vast petroleum deposits which are reputed to be present along its coastal shelf stretching from Korea to Vietnam. Several large U.S. oil companies have recently visited China, at Peking's invitation, to discuss what could turn out to be a giant barter deal involving American know-how from China. These discussions are obviously at a very tentative stage because China is yet to make the major political decision as to whether or not it should allow foreign collaborators into the country. Recently, it is reported to have turned down a Japanese bid to enter such joint ventures to mine offshore oil. Though much of China'a industry is based on coal, it has been self-sufficient in oil since it began expanding production at the Teaching fields in north-east China. Its main motive for the foreseeable time in extracting oil from its hitherto untrapped offshore fields would be to get it abroad. China uses its own know-how and technology to work on onshore fields but it would restrict foreign know-how to exploit the offshore fields. Oil-hungry Japan, which is already slated to buy three million tonnes of oil a year from China, would seem to be the natural collaborator for any offshore ventures by China. But American experts think that if China does revise its oil policy, it would prefer to do business with the U.S. rather than Japan.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 22, 1923

In Portuguese Africa

The town is excited concerning the attempt on behalf of Banco De Beira to ship sixty thousand sterlings, worth of silver to Delagoa Bay, a number of the townspeople asserting this was detrimental to the country's interests. The authorities summoned armed reinforcement and the atmosphere is tense. Silver is consigned to Lourenco Marques allegedly en route to Portugal. The townspeople affirm its ultimate destination is India. In London, the situation is quieter. Considerable armed force has been assembled on the wharf. The steamer aboard which silver is to be shipped is awaiting another attempt to take on the load which is being made later.

From Page One

Countries should respect sovereignty: PM

The Indian leader raised the issues relevant to the Global South in his most-detailed statement at the G-7. On Saturday, he met several world leaders, including Mr. Zelensky, French President Emmanuel Macron and others.

'Institutions of the past'

The meeting between Mr. Modi and Mr. Zelensky on Saturday was the first face-to-face discussion the two had since their meeting on November 2, 2021 on the sidelines of the UN Climate Change Conference (COP-26) in Glasgow. A major part of Mr. Zelensky's visit to Hiroshima focused on securing support from countries like India and Brazil, which have maintained a neutral position in the war while deepening economic ties with Russia. Significantly, a meeting between Mr. Zelensky and Brazil's President Luiz Inacio Lula Da Silva was cancelled because of "scheduling" issues.

Mr. Modi on Sunday met with Brazil's President Lula Da Silva in which both leaders emphasised the need for reform of the United Nations. Earlier in his speech at the summit, Mr. Modi spoke forcefully about the requirement of reform at the UN Security Council and declared, "We should ask – why are we going to different platforms to talk about peace and stability? Why is the UN that was created to stop conflicts not successful in controlling these events? Why is there no binding language of terrorism in the UN? If we introspect, then we can know that the institutions that were created in the past century are unable to meet the challenges of the 21st century". He quoted the Buddha and said, "Hostility cannot be resolved by hostility."

Kejriwal rallies to stall Delhi civil service Bill

Speaking to presspersons after the meeting, Mr. Kejriwal said he will seek the support of Opposition parties to defeat the Bill in the Rajya Sabha.

"The day after tomorrow [Tuesday], I have a meeting with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata at 3 p.m. After that, I will meet every party's president to seek their formal support for defeating the Bill when it comes in the Rajya Sabha," the Delhi CM said.

Mr. Kejriwal said if the Bill was defeated in the Rajya Sabha, it would send out a message that the Bharaitya Janata Party (BJP) would lose the 2024 Lok Sabha election. He framed this fight as the "semi-final" to the election. Mr. Kumar had assured him complete support, Mr. Kejriwal said.

Nullifying verdict

The Bihar Chief Minister criticised the Centre's move, which nullifies the Supreme Court's verdict on the issue. "How can you take away an elected government's power. Look at the Constitution – whatever he [Mr. Kejriwal] is saying is right. We are completely with him," Mr. Kumar said. When asked, Mr. Kumar said he would speak to the Congress leadership on the issue of the Ordinance. "I don't think anybody will oppose it [supporting Kejriwal]. We will talk to them [the Congress]," he said.

Mr. Kejriwal was among the few Opposition Chief Ministers who was not invited to the Karnataka Chief Minister's swearing-in, which was attended by leaders from 16 Opposition parties.

The Congress has so far not made its stand clear on the Ordinance, though party general secretary and top Delhi leader Ajay Maken, in a post on Twitter, advised Mr. Kejriwal to tackle obstacles skilfully for Delhi's welfare the way his predecessor and Congress leader Sheila Dikshit had done. Mr. Maken recalled how Ms. Dikshit handled a similar tussle, where a key officer was transferred by the then L-G without keeping the government in loop. "Engage with the officers respectfully, hold dialogues and persuade them for Delhi's advancement. They will certainly align with your vision if it's sincere," Mr. Maken said.

He also criticised Mr. Kejriwal's behaviour towards the bureaucracy. "Your past actions – summoning officers at ungodly hours, resorting to mistreatment and harsh words – are not constructive. It's crucial to recognise that such behaviour only contributes to the city's distress," the Congress leader wrote.

Game of numbers

As the numbers stand in the Rajya Sabha, the BJP is the single largest party with 93 members.

The AAP with 10 members stands a chance only if the Congress, which has 31 members, backs it. The JD(U) and RJD have already extended support to the AAP, and the Trinamool is also likely to side with it. Though this alone won't suffice, Mr. Kejriwal will have to convince 11 other Opposition parties. Together, this block has 102 members. But the scale can easily tilt in the government's favour if the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) and the YSR Congress Party, each of which have nine seats, vote in favour of the Bill. The two parties, though they are not in a formal alliance with the BJP, have more often than not voted with the government in case of a division during the passing of any contested legislation.

Opposition pundits are hoping that since this issue hits at the very heart of the federal structure of the Indian Constitution, both the BJD and YSR Congress Party might switch sides.

Jaishankar, Blinken meet in Hiroshima, discuss plans for PM's U.S. visit in June

Retreat with President Biden outside Washington, diaspora events on the cards; Secretary of State says the U.S. is looking forward to hosting Prime Minister Modi, whose visit will celebrate the deep partnership between the two countries; it will be the first state visit for an Indian PM since 2009

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

As External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken met in Hiroshima on Sunday, the two sides discussed plans for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the U.S. in June, with sources saying a number of possible plans, including a "short retreat" outside Washington, were still being finalised.

"We look forward to hosting Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in June, whose visit will celebrate the deep partnership between the United States and India," Mr. Blinken said in a tweet, which Mr. Jaishankar thanked him for.

At the Quad meeting held on the sidelines of the G-7 summit on Saturday, U.S. President Biden also reportedly referred to the upcoming visit.

According to the BJP's National Information & Technology Department in-charge, Amit Malviya, who tweeted that Mr. Biden heaped "fawning praise" on Mr. Modi, the U.S. President said that there was a "huge demand from people across U.S. to attend the state dinner next month", joking that he should seek Mr. Modi's "autograph".

Neither the External Affairs Ministry nor the U.S. Embassy in Delhi confirmed the remarks by the U.S. President in Hiroshima.

Diplomatic terms: S. Jaishankar, left, with Antony Blinken on the sidelines of the G-7 Summit, in Hiroshima on Sunday. ANI

Ceremonial welcome

While the state visit, the first for an Indian Prime Minister since 2009, will include a ceremonial welcome at the White House and a state banquet, the visiting dignitaries are also often accorded a lunch at the State Department [to meet with the Vice-President and the Secretary of State].

Last month, India Caucus co-chair Ro Khanna confirmed he was writing to the U.S. Speaker to request that Mr. Modi also address the U.S. Congress. In addition, the Prime Minister, who will reach Washington on June 22, ahead of the official events on June 23, is expected to address a large gathering of U.S. CEOs and Chambers of Commerce, and attend a reception for the Indian diaspora organised by the Indian Embassy.

Earlier, the BJP's overseas wing and diaspora groups were looking into possible diaspora events in Chicago or Atlanta, but sources said there was "no clarity" on whether a large diaspora event on the lines of the 2018 "Howdy Modi" address in Houston would be included.

Short trip

Sources also said that the two governments were discussing a short trip outside Washington by Mr. Biden and Mr. Modi. According to the sources, officials have discussed the possibility of the two leaders travelling to the U.S. presidential retreat for hosting foreign dignitaries at Camp David, or Mr. Biden's private vacation home on Rehoboth beach.

"The programme is evolving, and details are not finalised yet," said at least two officials involved in planning the visit.

In the past, Mr. Modi has shared such "retreat" sojourns with German Chancellor Angela Merkel at the Schloss Meseberg palace outside Berlin, U.K. Prime Minister David Cameron at Chequers, Russian President Vladimir Putin at his dacha in Sochi, and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Wuhan.

Mr. Modi will be the third state guest that Mr. Biden will host during his presidency, after French President Emmanuel Macron in December 2022 and South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol.

Mr. Blinken's meeting with Mr. Jaishankar also came a week after India sharply rejected a U.S. State Department report on international religious freedom that criticised the Modi government for the "continued targeting of minorities" in India.

External Affairs Ministry officials on Thursday sidestepped a question on whether the issue would be raised during the India-U.S. bilateral.

Last-minute changes made to itinerary as G-20 meet begins in Kashmir today

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

There has been a last-minute change in the itinerary of around 60 foreign and local delegates touring Kashmir from May 22 to 24 for a G-20 working group meeting on tourism. The alteration in the plan is on the advice of security agencies.

The scheduled sightseeing visits to the Dachigam National Park, Srinagar, and tourist hotspot Gulmarg in north Kashmir have been dropped, officials said.

The organisers, according to senior government officials, have decided to showcase Polo View market, the Valley's first pedestrian-only bazaar thrown open with multi-facilities recently, under the ongoing ₹980-crore Srinagar Smart City project, to the delegates.

Shopkeepers have been asked to report at their shops around 9 a.m. on all the three days, from May 22 till May 24. They have been advised against "observing any shutdown" on the call of separatists, several shopkeepers told *The Hindu*. "Special passes have been provided to us so that we are allowed to cross the security checkpoints," they added.

Heavily guarded: MARCOS patrolling the Dal Lake in Srinagar ahead of the upcoming G-20 meeting. NISSAR AHMAD

Tourist spots

The delegates will also be taken to the famous Mughal gardens in Srinagar, which include Nishat, Cheshmashahi and Pari Mahal. All the locations are within the vicinity of eight kilometres from the main venue, Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), located on the banks of the Dal lake.

A senior government official told *The Hindu* that the trip to the lush green Dachigam National Park was cancelled "because of space issues".

He added that Gulmarg was cancelled "due to tight schedule of delegates in Srinagar", including sightseeing of locations within the city.

A travel advisory has been issued for the local people for the next three days and they have been asked to avoid travelling on the route where the main venue is located, during restricted hours.

The elite NSG, and MARCOS, a special navy team, will maintain a vigil on the venue and the route being used by the delegates.

India, U.S. to hike technology cooperation; co-production of jet engines on the table

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

India and the U.S. are discussing possibilities of co-producing jet engines, long-range artillery and infantry vehicles under the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET) announced earlier this year, and officials said some high-technology initiatives are expected to be announced during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's upcoming visit to the U.S. next month.

Ahead of the visit, the launch of INDUS-X under the iCET to promote partnerships between the two countries' defence innovation ecosystems is scheduled in Washington.

In the run-up to the visit, these issues were discussed at the 17th meeting of India-U.S. Defence Policy Group (DPG), chaired by Defence Secretary Giridhar Aramane from India and Under Secretary of Defence for Policy Colin Kahl last week.

"The two sides reviewed the progress made in furthering defence industrial cooperation and operationalising the India-U.S. Major Defence Partnership. Important aspects such as military-to-military cooperation, and cooperative activities in the Indian Ocean Region were discussed," the Defence Ministry said in a statement.

If the U.S. agrees to transfer jet engine [technology] to India, it sends a very strong message to China

Enhancing cooperation

The Ministry further said that considerable focus was given on the ways and means to enhance defence industrial cooperation, including technology partnership, long-term research and development, and improving supply chain security.

Officials from both sides confirmed that the jet engine collaboration was discussed during DPG along with other collaboration mechanisms within co-production and co-development.

Among proposals being discussed is to jointly produce a jet engine for India's future indigenous jets for which General Electric is competing with Safran of France and Rolls-Royce of U.K.

Commenting on this, Mukesh Aghi, president and CEO of the U.S.-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF), said only four countries make jet engines for planes, and India will be the fifth one if the deal is announced.

"So the jet engine deal will take India's capability in the aircraft industry to a new level. The deal also sends a message to the Chinese that the relationship between India and the U.S. is not just a surface relationship and is getting deeper," he told *The Hindu*.

If the U.S. agrees to transfer jet engine [technology] to India, which China doesn't at present have the capability for, it sends a very strong message, Mr. Aghi further said.

Earlier efforts at co-developing a jet engine has failed to take off owing to U.S. domestic legislation.

(With inputs from Suhasini Haidar)

Return of ₹2,000 currency notes to bolster bank coffers, money market liquidity: report

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

The Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) decision to withdraw ₹2,000 notes could boost banks' deposit base and liquidity in the money markets by anywhere between ₹40,000 crore to ₹1.1 lakh crore, even if just about a third of these heavily hoarded high currency notes are flushed out by the exercise, according to a research report.

A part of those notes which are being hoarded to avoid taxes on unaccounted-for incomes could be funnelled into assets such as real estate and jewellery, the report reckoned. The central bank has said that the notes will remain legal tender, but has asked people holding such notes to deposit or exchange them by September 30.

With no clarity yet on what the status of these notes will be after that deadline, a flurry of exchanges is expected over next four months, which could "rekindle memories of demonetisation" from 2016, QuantEco Research said in a note. Estimating the stock of ₹2,000 denomination banknotes to be around ₹3.7 lakh crore or 1.3% of GDP – equivalent to 10.8% of the cash in circulation at the end of March – the note said that banks' deposit base would be bolstered if all of those notes came back by the stipulated deadline.

"However, since ₹2,000 denomination notes were not commonly used for transactions, it implies that they were either hoarded for precautionary reasons or for bypassing the formal taxation channel. In either case, the increase in banks' deposit base on account of its withdrawal from circulation could prove to be temporary as precautionary demand would eventually settle for lower denominations," QuantEco's team of economists, led by founder Shubhada Rao, pointed out.

"Unaccounted-for income might fuel demand for high value consumption items like real estate and precious metals, like the experience post the Demonetisation episode in 2016," they added.

"However, if we assume a scenario where 10%-30% of erstwhile hoarded cash gets back to circulation, then this could have a durable impact on banks' deposit base and money market liquidity to the extent of ₹400-1,100 billion," they concluded.

Dividend income

Another decision taken last Friday by the central bank – to transfer a hefty ₹87,416 crore to the government as dividend, compared to around ₹30,300 crore in 2022-23 – would also boost liquidity, the report noted. The government had only provided for about ₹48,000 crore as dividend income from financial institutions, including the RBI, in its 2023-24 Budget.

The move provides a fiscal buffer of about 0.13%-0.15% of GDP to the Centre and will help mitigate some of the expenditure spillovers that could potentially take place through the year, it said.

"More importantly, this strong dividend transfer would provide a bonanza for core money market liquidity with the central government eventually using this for its expenditure in the coming months," the report underlined.

NIA arrests banned Naxal outfit's leader Dinesh Gope

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested Dinesh Gope, a self-styled supremo of the People's Liberation Front of India (PLFI), a proscribed Naxal outfit of Jharkhand. The accused was involved in over 102 criminal cases and carried a reward of ₹30 lakh.

A case was registered against Gope by the NIA in a case related to the seizure of ₹25.38 lakh demonetised notes from the PLFI operatives in 2016. An absconder for almost two decades, he was arrested in New Delhi. According to the NIA, criminal cases registered against him include murders, abductions, and extortion.

‘Slavery is the same... under the British or the BJP’

Flaying the EC’s decisions on the Shiv Sena issue, the former Maharashtra CM says the poll body can register a party but ‘cannot decide the name of anyone’s party’; he says people are looking for an alternative to BJP and asserts the Hindutva followed by his party is different from that of the BJP; Sena (UBT) chief also blames the BJP’s ‘use and throw’ politics for his decision to join hands with Cong.

INTERVIEW

Uddhav Thackeray

Varghese K. George
Abhinay Deshpande

Uddhav Thackeray is fighting to hold on to the legacy of his father Balasaheb Thackeray, who founded the Shiv Sena. Mr. Thackeray attacked the Election Commission for delaying to recognise the ‘real’ Shiv Sena among the two factions. He also said that the EC should take *suo motu* cognisance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s statement during the Karnataka election. Edited excerpts:

Do you regret that you resigned as CM rather than face the floor test last year? If you had faced the floor test, the SC might have reinstated you...

The judgment depends on how you see it. People are shocked that despite being illegal, this government (led by Eknath Shinde, who split from Mr. Thackeray) is still in power. There are two or three aspects here. We filed a petition for disqualification of the first 16 MLAs and later 22. They will have to be disqualified, going by the judgment. At the same time, the court has also observed that the entire process of how the government was formed was illegal. We also approached the Supreme Court for the name and symbol of the party. The court has clearly mentioned that a party’s legitimacy can’t be decided by the number of MLAs and MPs, but on the party’s structure and constitution.

That was our demand. For two to three months, the Election Commission of India [EC] drove us around in circles by saying that they would decide the case on the basis of numbers, MLAs, MPs, etc. We sent them a list of over 20 lakh members and affidavits of our office-bearers to support our claim. We have sent all the documents to Delhi by train by taking all precautions. Despite having everything, the EC gave its decision that the party belongs to them [the Shinde faction] as 40 MLAs are with them. It is wrong. Such a thing never happened and it should not happen in the future.

The EC can register the party and allot election symbol, but it cannot decide the name of anyone’s party. They can’t give my party name to others. We did not give the name [Shiv Sena] after asking them. My father gave it the name. So the EC decision was wrong.

EC should know what its powers are. It once disenfranchised my father and other leaders for speeches [in late 1980s]. My father campaigned on issues like Ram Mandir and Babri Masjid. But now, Prime Minister is campaigning by saying *Jai Bajrangbali*. So did the EC change the rule or are they selective? It should be a big issue. Is the PM allowed to do whatever he wants? Will the EC take *suo motu* cognisance against the PM? The rule should be equal for everyone.

After the SC verdict, are you hopeful of getting the Shiv Sena name back?

The case is pending with Supreme Court. I guess, the verdict will be pronounced after the summer vacation.

What is your analysis of the Karnataka election and its impact on national politics?

People of Karnataka have voted on the basis of ground reality. Someone said ‘*Ache din aayenge*’ [good days will come], he spoke about rising prices, unemployment, etc. They are completing nine years in power... enough time to make a difference. If the media questions them on such issues, they will target and shut their business. [Union Home Minister] Amit Shah said that Karnataka will see communal riots if Congress came to power. What does it mean?

When I was Chief Minister, I prevented communal riots even during tough times of CAA and NRC. I didn’t allow communal riots to happen in my Maharashtra. Even during the COVID-19 lockdown, communal riots didn’t happen when I closed all religious places. People were listening to me as I never spoke anything against anyone.

Currently, Manipur is burning. Why riots have increased suddenly? Even [former J&K Governor] Satyapal Malik explained in detail about Pulwama. I’m scared that they will now raise communal rhetoric to win elections... In Nashik, the custom of Muslims offering reverence at the Trimbakeshwar temple is being turned into a controversy. This was communal harmony. You (BJP) first decide whether you want to play Hindu-Muslim politics or patriotism. We are against *deshdrohis* (traitors), it doesn’t matter if they are Hindus or Muslims. A soldier named Auragazeb was martyred in Kashmir. It doesn’t matter if he was a Muslim because he fought for our country, our motherland, and died. Terrorists didn’t see if he was a Muslim or not. They knew he was an Indian and killed him. What is your [BJP] Hindutva? Is going around with *gaumutra* your Hindutva?

EMMANUAL YOGINI

What do you expect to happen in the 2024 Lok Sabha election?

It depends. If we notice region-wise, the mood of people differs between Parliament and Assembly elections. But wherever there is a strong alternative, people choose them. If a regional party is strong, people vote for them, otherwise Congress.

So, according to you, people are also looking for an alternative and if there is one, they are ready to vote for them?

Yes. Did we ever imagine [Arvind] Kejriwal becoming a Chief Minister? It is his third term now. Even I never thought he would, but his party is growing. They have Chief Minister in Punjab now. Even in Karnataka, Congress had a thumping victory.

But, Maharashtra is a very unique experiment. Ten years ago, no one would have imagined Congress, Shiv Sena and NCP coming together.

There was no need for me to go with Congress, but they [BJP] pushed me. Their [BJP] policy is ‘use and throw’. See, now they changed [Kiren] Rijiju. I remember attending one NDA meeting, many years ago. There were members of more than 30 parties who participated. [Union Minister Nitin] Gadkari*ji* was sitting next to me and I asked him why some of the parties don’t even have an MP but are attending the meeting. He told me that they were part of NDA. That was all in the past.

Will you ever join hands with the BJP again?

Forget about me going with BJP or not. First, why did they push me? You should ask this question to BJP.

Do you think Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) is good for Maharashtra?

Many more parties are coming together... A few days ago [Bihar CM] Nitish Kumar and Mr. Kejriwal were here. [Telangana CM] K. Chandrashekar Rao was here, and we met Mamata*ji*, [Jharkhand CM] Hemant Soren. We are ready to make anyone [PM], but won’t tolerate this dictatorship [of BJP government]... Everyone is trying [to defeat BJP in 2024 election] and we hope to succeed.

What is your definition of Hindutva?

Not mine, but my grandfather always used to say that his Hindutva was not about sporting *shendi-janeu* [tuft of hair at the back of the head specifically kept by Vaishnavas and Brahmanas’ sacred thread].

My father used to say I don’t want a Hindu who bangs temple bells, but one who can bang anti-nationals/traitors. That means our Hindutva was linked to patriotism and harmony among religions. Using religion for power is not my version of Hindutva.

MVA is on shaky ground according to some reports..?

Everything is all right with the MVA right now. But yes, in the coming days I expect BJP attempts to damage us.

What might the BJP do?

They will make some moves to recover from the setbacks. I fear communal tensions. It will come up with sugar-coated schemes or sugar-coated words... rake up emotive issues. I want to say one thing... I’m not against Modi*ji*, I’m against their style of functions... Modi*ji* is an individual... we have to fight against their dictatorship... or else the sacrifice of freedom fighters goes in vain... slavery is slavery... either it is under the British or the BJP. Our sole agenda is to save the democracy and the Constitution. Our job is to protect and save Bharatmata from slavery.

Shiv Sainiks (including Shinde camp leaders) who deserted you are in contact with you again?

Even if they do, why should I reveal it?

But, they (BJP) are doing politics of revenge. People leave a party and return to it, such things happen in politics.. But, now these people are troubling my poor people, which is bad.

What is common between the Congress and Shiv Sena?

What was common between us and BJP? Our Hindutva idea was different from theirs. We came together for the cause of Hindutva, but the way they have been advancing it...There is mob lynching in the name of protecting cows...*Gau mata* needs protection but our *matas* don’t? Women are unsafe by they are after cow protection.

At the same time, the BJP says people in Tripura can eat beef... In one State mob lynching for cows, while in another State, people openly consume beef.... So, what exactly is their definition of Hindutva? What wrong did I do by aligning with the Congress?

Do you expect trouble in seat sharing with Nationalist Congress Party and the Congress for Lok Sabha?

We have a mutual understanding. We will resolve any issue that might arise. I will ensure that there won’t be any trouble in seat-sharing.

So, you and others will have to compromise on certain seats?

We must accept the reality and move forward. Our goal is to win and safeguard not only Maharashtra but the entire country... Democracy should be alive, and we must protect the Constitution drafted by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Did it have a lifespan of only 75 years?

Office of RGI says it cannot reveal stance on Meiteis

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

The Office of the Registrar-General of India has declined to make public its position on whether the Meitei community in Manipur can be categorised as a Scheduled Tribe as per the criteria currently in use. The Office of the RGI said that disclosing this information to the public would “prejudicially affect the sovereignty and integrity of India, the security, strategic, scientific or economic interests of the State, relation with foreign State or lead to incitement of an offence”.

The community, making up the majority of population, is currently in the middle of an ethnic conflict with the Kuki-Zomi people of Manipur (categorised as ST) over the former’s demand for ST status. The State has seen deadly clashes between the communities since May 3, leaving over 70 dead and scores of others injured.

As per the procedure laid down by the Union government in 1998 and finalised in 2002, the addition of any community to the list of Scheduled Tribes or Scheduled Castes cannot go through without the Office of the RGI concurring with such a proposed addition.

In response to a Right to Information (RTI) request, the Office of the RGI told *The Hindu*, “In view of the sensitivity of the matter and being only a part of the process, the ORGI comments cannot be shared under RTI Act as per the clause 8 (1)(a), 8 (1)(g) & 8(1)(h).”

Kuki groups to press for separation from Manipur, equal political status

‘We will not go back to the pre-May 3 conditions under which negotiations were being held so far... we want to seal our borders and want to be out of Manipur,’ says a leader; authorities begin audit of weapons at Kuki camps in hill districts

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Kuki insurgent groups which signed a Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement with the Manipur government and the Union Home Ministry in 2008 are going to press for a separate administration and equal political status for the Kuki-Zo community, separate from Manipur but within the Union of India, one leader told *The Hindu*.

On May 3, when ethnic violence swept Manipur, leading to the death of more than 70 people, the United Peoples’ Front (UPF) and the Kuki National Organisation (KNO) were holding talks with the Ministry’s representative, A.K. Mishra, in Delhi and had reached a settlement on issues that have been pending resolution for decades. The groups had agreed to a self-governance model in the form of territorial councils for Kukis in Manipur.

People from the Kuki community taking shelter at a relief camp in Churachandpur district of Manipur. RITU RAJ KONWAR

“We will not go back to the pre-May 3 conditions under which negotiations were being held so far. We want to seal our borders and want to be out of Manipur. We had almost settled the deal for territorial councils,” the leader said.

Earlier, 10 MLAs from the hill districts of Manipur, including seven from the ruling BJP, in a meeting with Home Minister Amit Shah, demanded a separate administration as the “State miserably had failed to protect” them when the violence started on May 3.

On March 10, the Manipur Cabinet decided to withdraw from the tripartite SoO agreement with the Kuki National Army (KNA) and Zomi Revolutionary Army (ZRA), two hill-based insurgent groups. Days before this, on March 1, the Ministry, also a signatory, extended the SoO with the UPF and the KNO for another year. The SoO was formalised with the two Kuki groups, an umbrella of 24 insurgent groups in 2008. A Union government official said that the State government’s withdrawal did not mean much as it was a tripartite agreement.

Security audit

Kuldiep Singh, security adviser, Manipur government, told *The Hindu* that authorities were conducting a security audit at the camps of Kuki insurgent groups in the hill districts of Manipur amid allegations that weapons deposited as part of the SoO were used in the clashes. The Congress and the Kuki MLAs have accused the Aarambai Tenggol, a Meitei outfit, for stealing arms from police camps.

“We are carrying out inspections at camps of SoO groups. Earlier only the locks of the trunks in which the weapons were stored were checked, now we have asked for the locks to be opened and each weapon counted. There are two keys, with the SoO groups and the Assam Rifles. At one camp, the count did not match, but as per the pact they can be used by cadres to defend the camps,” Mr. Singh said.

He said there were 2,200 cadres of the SoO groups in 14 camps. They are also entitled to a monthly stipend of ₹6,000 per cadre. A KNO representative said the stipends were erratic and sometimes not released for 14 to 15 months.

Mr. Singh said of the 1,420 weapons looted from the police armoury, 488 had been recovered. “We had appealed to people to bring in the looted weapons. The period of appeal is over now, we will begin a crackdown and a thorough investigation will be done,” he said, adding that more than 2,000 FIRs had been filed so far.

He said Internet would continue to be blocked in Manipur and a “whitelist of instruments” was being prepared. “The situation is not conducive for restoring mobile Internet,”he said.

Time to move on, restore normalcy in Manipur: CM

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh on Sunday said it was time to move on from the violence and restore normalcy in the State. There was no fight between communities, but with the government, he said in Imphal.

“Past is past. Our mission now is to restore normalcy. There was no fight between communities. It (fight) was with the government. When any government anywhere tries to do something, there will always be acceptance or resistance,” he said.

Although Mr. Singh did not elaborate, his government’s drives against alleged encroachment of forest land and poppy cultivation are said to be among the main reasons behind the violence.

Jaish operative arrested in Kashmir, says NIA

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

A local Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) operative, who was in touch with a Pakistan-based commander, has been arrested in north Kashmir, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) said on Sunday.

The NIA identified the accused as Mohammed Ubaid Malik of Kupwara. “He was in constant touch with a Pakistan-based JeM commander. Investigations have revealed that the accused was passing on secret information to the Pakistan-based commander,” the NIA said.

The agency also added that it recovered incriminating documents from him. The NIA said the arrest was made in a case registered on June 21, 2022, related to the conspiracies hatched by cadres and overground workers of various proscribed terrorist organisations in cohorts with their commanders based in Pakistan.

The case involves the collection and distribution of huge consignments of narcotics, cash, weapons, and Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), including remote-control-operated sticky bombs or magnetic bombs, the NIA said.

“The IEDs and explosives are often being delivered over drones and are also being assembled locally, in order to execute terrorist attacks in J&K, as per the NIA investigations. The attacks are mainly targeted at the minorities and security forces personnel,” it said.

No.1-7/PW/DBM/D1/2023-24/
GOVERNMENT OF PUDUCHERRY
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
MAHE

No.1-7/PW/DBM/D1/20-23-24/ Dt.19.5.2023

PRESS NOTICE FOR e-Tender

On behalf of the President of India, e-tenders are invited through the Executive Engineer, Mahe Division, Public Works Department, Mahe. The tender for 1 (one) work. For further details please refer to the web site https://pudutenders.gov.in

EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PWD, MAHE

No:084/DIP/AD(Press)/2023-24

KOLKATA MUNICIPAL CORPORATION e-TENDER

CORRIGENDUM

e-NIT No. : KMC/D.G.(TNP)/41/2022-2023 Tender ID No. : 2022-KMC_499651_1 published in this Newspaper on 28.03.2023 (Key No. 1206/22-23) of TP & DD/TNP Department. Last date and time of submission of bid (online) will be 21.06.2023 up to 1 p.m. instead of 20.05.2023 up to 1 p.m. and Bid opening date and time for technical proposal (online) will be 23.06.2023 at 1 p.m. instead of 22.05.2023 at 1 p.m. All other important dates and terms and conditions shall however remain unaltered as thereof in the original tender notice/document.

160/23-24

KERALA BANK
Kerala State Co-operative Bank

PB.No.6515,
COBANK TOWERS,
VIKAS BHAVAN P.O, PALAYAM,
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, PIN - 695033

E-TENDER NOTICE

E-tenders are invited from Public Sector Insurance Companies (Through its Regional Offices or Divisional Offices), General Insurance Companies promoted by Public Sector Banks or from Insurance Broking Companies approved by IRDA representing the Public Sector Insurance Companies and General Insurance Companies promoted by Public Sector Banks for the renewal of Group Medical Insurance policies of the Bank. E-tender documents can be obtained from e-tender website of Kerala State Govt. (www.etenders.kerala.gov.in) and details are also available in the Bank’s Website www.keralacobank.com

The last date of submission of E-tenders is 07/06/2023 before 6.p.m

Trivandrum
19/05/2023

(Sd/-),
Chief Executive Officer

INBRIEF

Brij Bhushan says he is ready to undergo narco-analysis

Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, who is accused of sexually harassing women wrestlers, has said he is ready to undergo narco-analysis to settle the allegations. He, however, put forth a condition that along with him the protesting wrestlers, Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia, should also undergo the tests. "If both the wrestlers are ready to get the test done, then call the press and announce and I promise them that I am also ready for this," the six-term BJP MP wrote on his social media handle on Sunday, hours after a khap panchayat passed a resolution demanding that the BJP MP undergo a narco test and face legal action.

No Chinese encroachment in Arunachal, says BJP team

There has been no visible encroachment of land in Arunachal Pradesh by Chinese troops or civilians since 1962, a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) team has said after a four-month tour covering all the villages and defence outposts along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). An 11-member team of the BJP State unit, led by its vice-president Tarh Tarak, undertook the 'Sarhad Yatra' (border tour) from December 22 to April 24. "During the tour, we interacted with the personnel of the Army and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police along the LAC and the residents of border villages. We came to know that the situation on the border is normal and peaceful," Mr. Tarak said.

Singapore man reaches Everest summit, goes missing

An Indian-origin Singaporean climber has gone missing after reaching the summit of Mount Everest, his family has said, and called for urgent attention. According to a petition on the website change.org, Shrinivas Sainis Dattatraya set out from Singapore to Nepal last month to climb the peak. His cousin Divya Bharath wrote in the petition that on the way down, Mr. Shrinivas seemed to have suffered frostbite and altitude sickness. This probably might have resulted in his getting separated from the rest of his group, and he might have "fallen at around 8,000 metre, likely onto the Tibetan side of the mountain". PTI

Contempt plea in SC over 'Acting' DGPs in U.P., Punjab

A lawyer has sought contempt proceedings in the Supreme Court against the Uttar Pradesh and Punjab governments for appointing "Acting" Directors-General of Police (DGPs) in "complete violation" of apex court orders since 2006. In 2006, the Supreme Court had held in its Prakash Singh judgment that there was no such "concept" of an "Acting Director-General of Police". In his contempt petition, petitioner-advocate Brajesh Singh has challenged the appointment of Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Gaurav Yadav as the Acting DGP of Punjab. The petition also accused Uttar Pradesh of successively appointing Acting DGPs.

Guardians of the Ganga: task force keeps a watchful eye on the river

Over 4,000 volunteers under the Namami Gange initiative have been keeping a check on littering and poaching in the river to make sure that its flora, fauna are intact; in return, the Wildlife Institute of India has helped them with livelihood training

Ishita Mishra
NARORA/BULANDSHAHR

Omveer Kumar, 41, picks up plastic bottles, pouches and food packets as he walks on the wet sand on the banks of the Ganga. As he nears a heap of garbage, Mr. Kumar sees an overturned turtle, its neck wounded. He rushes it to a nearby rescue centre for treatment.

Mr. Kumar, a resident of Narora town in Bulandshahr district of Uttar Pradesh, is a Ganga *Prahari* (guardian). This is a task force of volunteers constituted by the National Mission for Clean Ganga and the Wildlife Institute of India (NMCG-WII) under the Namami Gange programme to cover 8.61 billion sq.km of the river basin.

Since 2014, Namami Gange has aimed to clean the river, ecosystem, and the villages around, home to 40% of India's population at 520 million and 2,500 species of flora and fauna. The United Nations in December 2022 recognised the initiative as one of the top 10 World Restoration Flagships involved in reviving the natural world – a project that has seen the Central government invest $5 billion.

On a mission: The United Nations in 2022 had recognised the Namami Gange initiative as one of the top 10 World Restoration Flagships involved in reviving the natural world. R.V. MOORTHY

Since 2016, when the Ganga *Prahari* project began, Mr. Kumar, who has studied till high school, has learnt to identify aquatic species that survive in the river by their scientific name. He can spot over 300 birds, both Indian and migratory, that arrive on the riverbank in different seasons.

His two children are also part of the project and are known as *Bal* (child) Ganga *Praharis*.

The job at hand

The task force, which now has over 4,000 volunteers in 100 districts across Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, Bihar, and West Bengal, keeps a check on river protection, preventing people from littering, and reports poaching.

G. Ashok Kumar, Director-General of Namami Gange, said they were planning to issue ID cards to all the Ganga *Praharis*.

And while Mr. Kumar said that the first target of the project was to ensure that no untreated water – sewage or industrial effluents – flowed into the river, Lakshman Sharma, *pati pradhan* (husband of the village pradhan Renu Sharma), points to sewage flowing directly into the river.

"I had complained to the panchayat officer, District Magistrate, even the Chief Minister, but this *nullah* is still flowing into the river," said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) worker.

Whether or not there has been an impact on the ecosystem, there has been some change in the lives of the people. To recruit volunteers, WII sets meetings with villagers through the *pradhan* and education institutions.

"An obvious question that comes out of the discussion is what they will get if they help. Then we mooted the idea of livelihood training," said Vineeta Sagar, a field researcher with WII

From beautician to electrician, different kinds of skilling opportunities are offered to them.

Under duress, BJP man calls off daughter's wedding

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Yashpal Rawat, a BJP leader and Nagar Palika chairperson of Pauri Garhwal in Uttarakhand, has cancelled his daughter's wedding with a Muslim man after protests from religious leaders and right-wing groups.

The wedding, scheduled for May 28, became the talk of the town after the invitation card went viral. Soon, Mr. Rawat started receiving "warnings" to call off the wedding. During a public event in Dehradun, religious leader Swami Darshan Bharti asked the public to boycott Mr. Rawat as he was supporting "love jihad". A right-wing group from Haryana also raised objections and some NGOs gave a memorandum to the District Magistrate (Pauri) expressing concern over the wedding.

After facing week-long protests, Mr. Rawat called off the wedding on Saturday. "Due to people's outrage, both in person and on social media, I have to cancel the wedding," he told *The Hindu*.

Three killed in fire at Bengal fireworks godown

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Three persons – two women and a girl – died on Sunday when a fire broke out at an illegal fire cracker godown at Nandarampur Daspara in South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal.

The fire occurred on the upper floor of a two-storey house at 7.40 p.m.

Local people said that they heard an explosion after which the fire spread on the second floor. The three victims were members of one family.

The police seized firecrackers from a godown about 50 metres from the house.

A fire and rescue official said that household items were found at the godown and it was difficult to confirm whether it was a firecracker factory or a house.

The incident occurred five days after an explosion at an illegal fire cracker unit at Khadikul village in Purba Medinipur district claimed 11 lives.

Compensate or vacate: owner of disputed land in Arunachal tells the Army

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The owner of the land at the centre of a Buddhist shrine-gurdwara row at an altitude of about 7,000 ft in Arunachal Pradesh has asked the Army to either compensate for using the land or vacate it, a report prepared by the local administration has said.

The Shi-Yomi district's Deputy Commissioner, Liyi Bagra, prepared the report on the basis of the meeting between the representatives of a community-based organisation of the local Buddhist Memba people and a two-member team of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) on May 18.

The report also said no representative from the Sikh community or the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), which had claimed the Buddhists had taken over the gurdwara near Shi-Yomi's Mechukha town, attended the meeting.

Point of dispute: The shrine hosts hundreds of Buddhists during an annual pilgrimage in March. RAHUL KARMAKAR

'Without permission'

"Gebu Onge, the landowner of the present location of the gurdwara, stated before the Minority Commission that the Indian Army established the gurdwara without his permission and in spite of repeated submission of memorandum and complaints to either vacate the gurdwara or compensate for the land/area, there has been no progress till today," the report said.

"Gebu Onge pleaded before the Commission that either the land may be compensated through the Indian Army/Defence or the Gurdwara may be vacated from his land," it added.

The shrine, almost equidistant from Mechukha and the Line of Actual Control dividing India and the Tibetan region controlled by China, hosts hundreds of Buddhists during an annual pilgrimage in March.

CUET is 'glitch-free', but some centres reported delays

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Common University Entrance Test (CUET-UG), 2023 commenced on Sunday, with students in the capital reporting that the test went off smoothly, barring delays at a few examination centres.

Approximately 15 lakh students will be appearing for the computer-based examination being conducted in three daily shifts between May 21 and June 5, across 275 cities in India and abroad. The CUET, which is the admission test for 250 universities, is being conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA).

Last year, the debut edition of the examination was marred by several technical glitches and students often found that their centre had been changed at the last minute.

University Grants Commission (UGC) Chairman Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar tweeted after the completion of the second shift, saying that the examination had been conducted smoothly. However, at some centres, students reported delays and server glitches that led to the late start of second shift papers.

"The second shift which was supposed to start at 12.30 p.m. started at 1 p.m. and we were intimated that due to server glitches, the two-hour examination would end at 5 p.m.," said Neelam Devi, who was waiting outside a centre for her daughter to complete her examination.

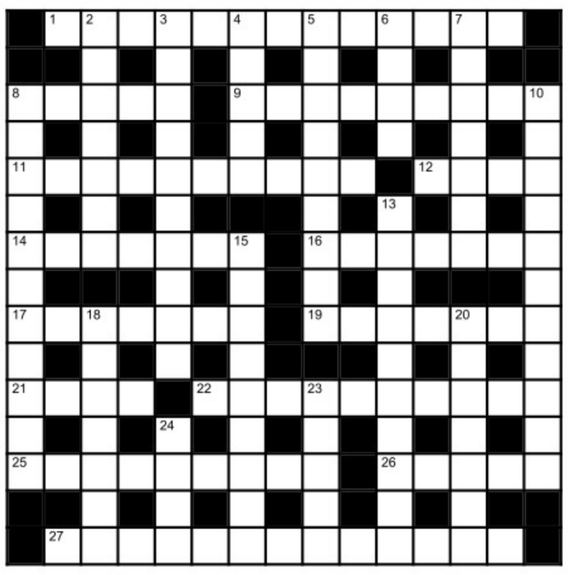
According to the NTA, CUET-UG witnessed a 41% increase in the number of registered students nationwide from that of its debut year. Last year, due to technical difficulties and venue changes, the conduct of the examination extended beyond its scheduled dates, throwing the academic calendar off schedule.

TH CROSSWORD + 13871

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Group of stars in show hosted by casino, not bad (13)
8 Closer to collapse after run out (5)
9 Looking backwards, shout catching glimpse of elephant on westward trail (9)
11 Just run away, get independent and marry (10)
12 Sleep with associate in American city (4)
14 Open-air food court, sadly not fine - lacking bit of class (7)
16 Summon girl to eat Mexican dish in retreat (7)
17 Panic-stricken fellow beginning to ruin caper (7)
19 A star mischievously cuddling stylish American singer (7)
21 Seize rebellious brute stealing rupees (4)
22 Suggestion on Makar Sankranti - take a hike (2,3,1,4)
25 Superintendent finally managed to control idiot rioting in institution (9)
26 Check empty houses, tidy (5)
27 Flick shot, cut and drive finally improving (6,7)

Down

2 Things changed after love at first glance (2,5)
3 Diminutive models in reality craving for sugar (5,5)
4 Memory of Elvis's first concert (5)
5 Thin legs affected son's agility (9)
6 Wrong shot limiting runs (4)
7 Fight between Americans after party's over in Japanese city (7)
8 Revolting insolence depressed good husband in vigorous bedroom conflict (6,5)
10 Trip organiser in camp hosting party at lounge (6,5)
13 Cheap trick by captain of Wales to score in final (10)
15 Group consuming coke slyly at noon gets punishment (9)
18 Go at it animatedly, incorporating a restless tempo (7)
20 One making an effort to enthral males, becoming more svelte (7)
23 Garment in new drag clothing, essentially mischievous (5)
24 Cloudy over island in the South of France (4)

SUDOKU

				2			6	9
		7			9		1	
	9		8	3		4	7	
	7		6		4	5		
		6	1		2		9	
	2	1		7	8		4	
	6		3			2		
7	3			4				

No.SS5806 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

G	C	D	M	L	B	L	J			
A	C	H	I	E	V	E	A	C	O	N
R	I	E	D	V	A	T	T			
L	I	L	Y	P	A	D	E	A	R	N
I	L	L	N	D	R	I				
C	H	I	C	K	W	E	E	D	G	R
			N	E	A	T	O			
T	A	R	N	I	S	H	R	A	M	P
R	A	F	O	E						
A	N	I	S	E	B	E	A	R	S	F
N	L	P	B	B	R	U				
S	U	C	C	O	R	Y	J	U	N	I
E	A	I	I	E	A	I	R			
P	A	R	E	N	T	S	C	A	Y	E
T	D	T	T	T	S	E	T			

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	3	9	2	7	5	1	4	8
1	2	8	3	4	6	7	5	9
5	7	4	1	9	8	3	2	6
4	8	3	5	6	9	2	7	1
9	1	5	7	3	2	8	6	4
2	6	7	8	1	4	9	3	5
8	5	1	6	2	3	4	9	7
7	9	2	4	5	1	6	8	3
3	4	6	9	8	7	5	1	2

FAITH

Purity of mind

In Tamil, the pyre is called 'sidhai' and the thought from our mind is called 'sindhai'. It is often asked which of the two is dangerous – sidhai or sindhai? While sidhai is not sentient, sindhai is considered dreadful because it lives. If we develop bad thoughts out of animosity and jealousy, they lead us to our downfall. The scriptures say we need to have clarity in our thoughts to be good. The guidelines of the Ithihasas and Puranas are to be lit as lamps (deepa) in our heart to dispel evil thoughts. If we push back our sensual pleasures and bring our knowledge to the fore, we can improve.

Worship without anticipation of anything in return is called bhakti. We need to exercise patience in our devotion.

Sage Narada was travelling on Earth when he met two persons. One was a great learned scholar and the other a lay man. Both of them asked the sage when they would get moksha. Narada replied that he would go to heaven, enquire, and come back. After some time, Narada met the learned scholar and told that he had to take four more births. The scholar felt sorry and began wondering why he should do all the poojas. The sage met the lay man and, showing him a tamarind tree, told him that he would have to count the leaves of the tree and take as many births. The lay man was happy, leaping in joy, thinking God would take him one day. At once, a voice from the sky said the lay man would be liberated because of his faith (viswasam), Smt. Vasuki Manoharan said in a discourse.

ATHENS

Greece PM's conservative party wins polls, but no outright victory

REUTERS

Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis's conservative party scored a thumping win in Sunday's election, but would likely call a new ballot in a month as it fell short of an outright majority to rule alone. With just over 50% of the ballot counted, his New Democracy Party scored a 20-point lead ahead of his nearest rival. AFP

SAN SALVADOR

12 dead, many injured in stampede at El Salvador football stadium

AFP

Twelve persons were killed and hundreds injured on Saturday in a stampede at an El Salvador football stadium. Initial reports pointed to a crush of fans who tried to enter the Cuscatlan Stadium in the Central American country's capital San Salvador to watch a local tournament match between teams Alianza and FAS. AFP

BEIJING

China says U.S. chipmaker Micron failed national security review

REUTERS

U.S. semiconductor giant Micron failed a national security review, China's cybersecurity watchdog said, asking operators of "critical information infrastructure" to stop buying its products. It marked the latest escalation in the chip war between the nations, with the U.S. looking to cut off China's access to semiconductors. AFP

TEHRAN

Iran summons Swiss envoy over tweet calling to halt executions

AP

Iran summoned Switzerland's Ambassador over a tweet calling for a stop to executions linked to protests triggered by the death of Mahsa Amini. The Swiss embassy took to Twitter on Friday to "strongly condemn" the execution of three men convicted of killing security force members during last year's protests. AFP

Kyiv disputes Moscow's claim over Bakhmut

Reuters
KYIV

Russia and Ukraine gave conflicting accounts of the situation in Bakhmut on Sunday, with Kyiv saying it still controlled a small part of the besieged eastern city while Moscow congratulated the Wagner private army and Russian troops for "liberating" it.

Russia said on Saturday it had fully captured the destroyed city. Russian President Vladimir Putin congratulated his troops and Wagner.

However, Ukrainian officials disputed the claims. A top Ukrainian general said Kyiv's forces controlled an "insignificant" part of Bakhmut, but said the foothold would be enough to enter the city when the situation changed.

G-7 wants to de-risk, not decouple from China: Biden

U.S. President says G-7 leaders agreed to diversify supply chains to reduce dependence on one country; he expects a thaw in relations with Beijing and hopes to speak with Xi Jinping soon

Reuters
HIROSHIMA

U.S. President Joe Biden on Sunday said the Group of Seven (G-7) nations had agreed on a united approach to China that called for diversifying supply chains to reduce dependence on one country, and hinted that he could speak with China's President Xi Jinping soon.

"We're not looking to decouple from China. We're looking to de-risk and diversify our relationship with China," Mr. Biden told a press conference after a three-day summit with G-7 leaders. He said G-7 nations were more unified than ever in terms of "resisting economic coercion together and countering harmful practices that hurt our workers".

Friend in need: Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky and his U.S. counterpart Joe Biden at the G-7 summit in Hiroshima. REUTERS

G-7 leaders outlined a shared approach to "de-risk, not decouple" economic engagement with China in a Saturday communique, prompting China's embassy in Japan to urge the G-7 to stop creating confrontation and division.

Despite the reaction, Mr. Biden said he expected a thaw in frosty relations with China "very shortly" after strains caused by an incident earlier this year when the U.S. shot down a Chinese balloon that flew over sensitive military sites.

Taiwan issue

On the issue of tensions between China and Taiwan, Mr. Biden said there was a clear understanding among most of the allies that if China were to act unilaterally against the self-governed island Taiwan, there would be a response.

"We're not going to tell China what they can do," he said, "But in the meantime we're going to put Taiwan in a position where they can defend themselves."

Israel far-right Minister visits Al-Aqsa compound

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

Israel's National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir visited the flashpoint Al-Aqsa mosque compound on Sunday, a controversial move by the extreme-right politician amid heightened tensions in annexed east Jerusalem.

The move came three days after Mr. Ben-Gvir and tens of thousands of Jewish nationalists marched through the Old City and just over a week into a fragile Gaza ceasefire.

"Jerusalem is our soul," Mr. Ben-Gvir wrote on Telegram, alongside a photo of himself at the site in the heart of the Old City. "The threats of Hamas will not deter us, I went up to the Temple Mount!" he wrote.

Al-Aqsa mosque is the third holiest site in Islam and is administered by Jordan. Non-Muslims are permitted to visit the site, but not pray there. The compound is also the most sacred site for Jews, who pray below it at the Western Wall.

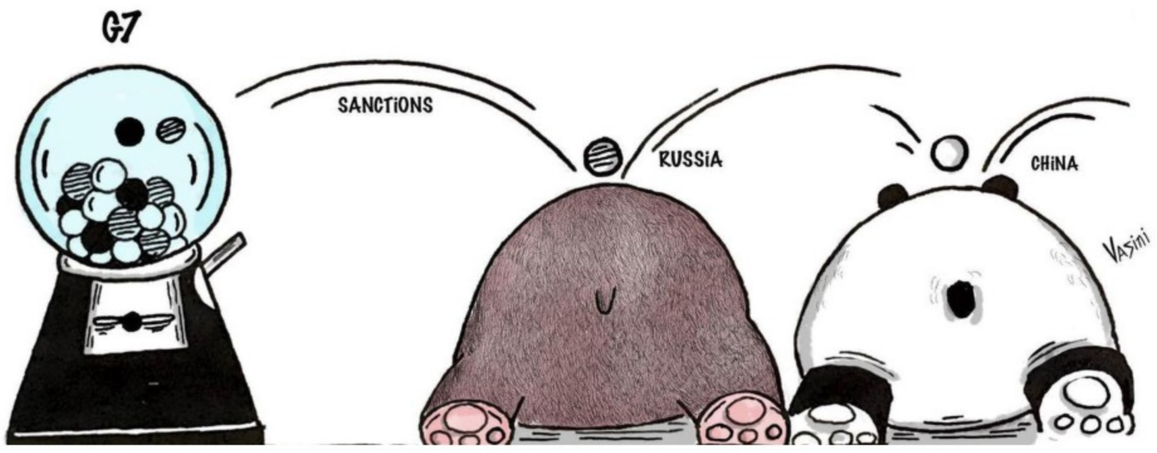
Fanning flames: Itamar Ben-Gvir, left, walk through the courtyard of Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa mosque complex on Sunday. AFP

Hamas, the militant group that rules Gaza, denounced Mr. Ben-Gvir's last visit to the site in January and again slammed his action on Sunday.

Israel will "bear responsibility for the barbaric incursions of its Ministers and herds of settlers", the group wrote on Telegram.

Jordan decried Mr. Ben-Gvir's actions as a "provocative step" and a "dangerous and unacceptable escalation".

On the draw



German police probing poisoning of Russian exiles

Agence France-Presse
BERLIN

The German police are investigating the possible poisoning of exiled Russians after a journalist and an activist reported health problems following a Berlin meeting of dissidents, a spokesman for the force said on Sunday.

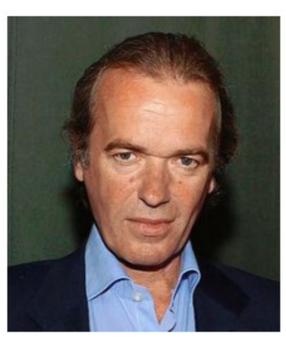
"An investigation has been opened," he said.

Russian investigative media outlet Agentstvo this week published a report saying two participants who attended an April 29-30 meeting of Russian dissidents in Berlin experienced health problems.

The Berlin meeting was organised by exiled former oligarch-turned-Kremlin critic Mikhail Khodorkovsky. One participant, a journalist who had recently left Russia, experienced unspecified symptoms during the event. They said the symptoms may have started earlier.

Martin Amis, author of *Money*, *London Fields*, dies aged 73

Agence France-Presse
MIAMI



Martin Amis

Renowned and influential British writer Martin Amis has died aged 73 at his home in Lake Worth, Florida, the Booker Prizes said on Saturday.

Mr. Amis was "one of the most acclaimed and discussed writers of the past 50 years and the author of 14 novels," said the website of Booker Prizes, the leading literary awards for fiction in the U.K.

His wife, Isabel Fonseca, told media that the author of searing and insightful works such as *Money: A Suicide Note*, *London Fields* and *Time's Arrow* died on Friday after a bout with oesophageal cancer.

His death was announced on the same day as the Cannes Festival showing of a film based on his 2014 book *The Zone of Interest*.

Set in Auschwitz, the novel tells the story of a Nazi officer who fell in love with the wife of the extermination camp commander.

Mr. Amis, the son of renowned comic novelist Kingsley Amis, equalled and even surpassed his father in fame with novels filled with savage humour.

"The novel is an incredibly intimate portrait of a writer," the younger Mr. Amis once told the BBC, reflecting on his career. "Although I don't write autobiography, I am everywhere in my books."

In 2008, the Times of London named him one of the 50 greatest British writers since 1945.

Shooting at Kansas City bar kills three, injures two

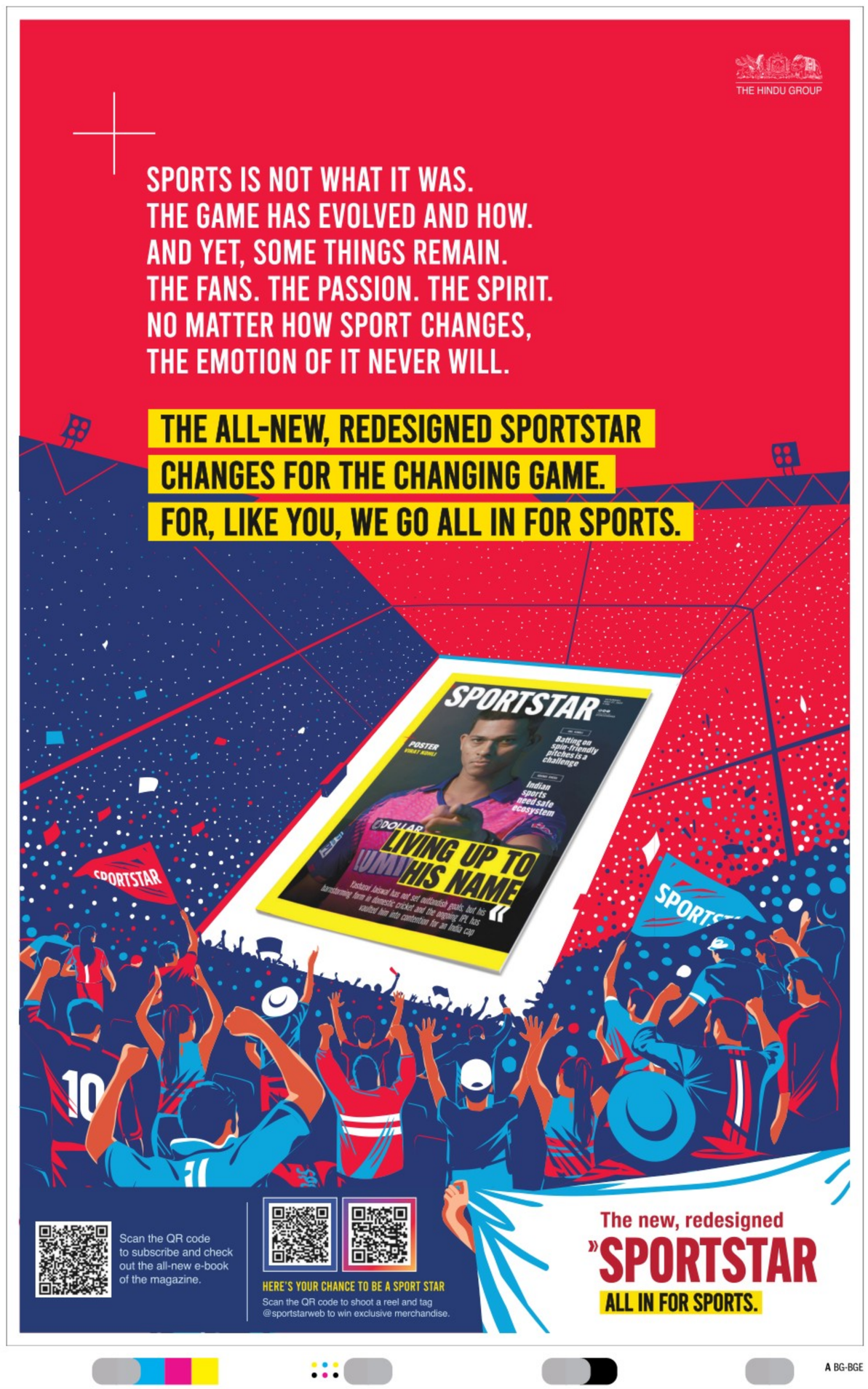
Associated Press
KANSAS CITY

Three persons were killed and two others wounded – including one critically – in a shooting at a Kansas City bar early on Sunday, the police said.

Multiple officers responded to the shooting at Klymax Lounge that was reported just before the bar's 1.30 a.m. closing time to find multiple victims and immediately began providing medical aid.

The police said two of the victims died at the scene – one was found inside the bar and the other was outside the building. A third victim died at the hospital. Details about the circumstances that led to the shooting were not immediately available, and it was not immediately clear where the victims were when they were shot.

The police said the victims were adults, but their ages and identities were not immediately available.


THE HINDU GROUP
SPORTS IS NOT WHAT IT WAS.
THE GAME HAS EVOLVED AND HOW.
AND YET, SOME THINGS REMAIN.
THE FANS. THE PASSION. THE SPIRIT.
NO MATTER HOW SPORT CHANGES,
THE EMOTION OF IT NEVER WILL.
THE ALL-NEW, REDESIGNED SPORTSTAR
CHANGES FOR THE CHANGING GAME.
FOR, LIKE YOU, WE GO ALL IN FOR SPORTS.
SPORTSTAR
POSTER
Batting on spin-friendly pitches is a challenge
Indian sports need safe ecosystem
LIVING UP TO HIS NAME
Scan the QR code to subscribe and check out the all-new e-book of the magazine.
HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO BE A SPORT STAR
Scan the QR code to shoot a reel and tag @sportstarweb to win exclusive merchandise.
The new, redesigned
SPORTSTAR
ALL IN FOR SPORTS.

ASKUS

Bhavana Acharya

Q I am a 21-year-old student. I want to invest some money for the future.
Between Systematic Investment Plan (SIP), mutual fund and shares, which is the best? Please suggest the minimum and maximum investment amounts.
MANJESH KUMAR

A SIP is not an investment by itself. It is a method of investing where you automate the process of investing periodically.
The actual investment will be a mutual fund, stock or ETF. Since you are just starting out with investments, avoid directly investing in stocks. Stocks require a thorough understanding of markets, company financials, business and so on.
Go for equity mutual funds instead to invest in stock markets.
To decide which funds to invest, the starting point needs to be your risk and timeframe.
For example, equity mutual funds need at least 5-7 years to deliver, will see return fluctuations, and are high risk. Debt mutual funds that invest in corporate bonds, government bonds etc are lower risk and need a shorter timeframe.
If you are going for equity funds, try to set aside some investments in safe instruments such as fixed deposits as well.
In equity, start with a large-cap Nifty 50 index fund. Add other more aggressive funds as your understanding improves and investment amount increases. For a lower risk way to participate in stock markets, opt for a hybrid aggressive fund that mixes equity and debt.
The investment amount is up to you. Funds set minimum amounts, but these are usually low.
Start investing with whatever you have; starting early even with small amounts will pay off more than delaying investing for larger amounts.

Q I'm a Defence personnel, earning about ₹50,000. I want to invest ₹30,000 from this. Please help me in developing an aggressive portfolio.
UMED SINGH

A Ensure that you have safe investments outside this portfolio such as fixed deposits or debt mutual funds.
For your portfolio, we are assuming that you can remain invested for at least 7 years.
Split this amount as follows - ₹7,500 each in a Nifty 50 index fund and a large-cap based active flexicap fund, ₹4,500 each in the Nifty Midcap 150 index fund (or an active mid-cap fund if you wish) and an active smallcap fund, and ₹3,000 each in a corporate bond and a short duration fund.
This will make an 80-20 equity-debt split.
For a less aggressive portfolio, reduce the equity to 70-75% by reducing from all the equity funds and put this in the corporate bond fund.
Review your portfolio at least once a year to make sure that fund performance still holds good.
(The writer is co-founder, PrimeInvestor.in)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

Measuring volatility risk while investing in stock market

Before investing, do not seek information only on returns, look into both the risk and return possibilities; while speculators embrace volatility, investors want stability

RISK AND REWARD

Gaurav Mashruwala

Picture this. There are two scrips recommended by your SEBI-registered investment advisor - Scrip A and Scrip B.

Over the past five years, the price of Scrip A has risen from ₹100 to ₹225 while that of Scrip B has increased from ₹100 to ₹250.

Both the companies are in the same sector and are well-established. Which one would you choose?

Your immediate response would be Scrip B, but, wait a minute, take a look at the movement (the journey) ₹100 onwards.

Scrip A had moved from ₹100 to ₹150, ₹175, ₹225, ₹235, ₹240 and then to ₹225.

Scrip B had moved from ₹100 to ₹175, ₹150, ₹215, ₹205, ₹285 and then to ₹250. Scrip B is more volatile. Statistically, volatility is measured by standard deviation. Standard deviation measures the risk on any kind of investment. The more the volatility, the more the risk.

Factoring risk

Most of the time, as investors, we look only at returns. We know that risk and returns are two sides of the same coin but still the subconscious mind refuses to factor in the risk.

> Most of the time, as investors, we look only at returns We know risk and returns are two sides of the same coin but still the subconscious mind refuses to factor in risk

We hear of "high risk, higher returns."

Consider these two axioms (a) High risk, high returns (b) High returns, high risk. Which one is more appropriate? Our immediate choice would be the first one. But think a little deeper, the second will seem more appropriate.

The additional thinking that was needed was to get the real answer from the subconscious mind.

> Investors who are disciplined gain the most. Investors who invest systematically — through SIPs — are the ones who benefit because they capitalise on volatility

Quite often in my talking assignments, I pose this question to the members of the audience: "How many of you can take a lot of risk?" Many hands go up.

Then, I ask the second question: "Of all those who have put their hands up, those who are at ease losing money can put their hands down."

Now, all those who have had their hands up would be the ones saying, "We can take risk but do not like losing money."

My next question to those individuals whose hands are still up would be: "You can take a lot of risk but are not comfortable losing money. What is your definition of risk?"

Loss aversion

Remember one very important fact: No one is risk averse, everyone is loss averse. The pleasure of making money (profit) is relatively lower than the pain of losing money.

Measuring volatility risk – i.e. standard deviation – entails within itself a measurement of all risks. The movement of price would be due to various factors – it could be situation and events within or outside the organisation.

The more the volatility, the more the chances of losing money. Speculators like to embrace volatility; investors want steadiness.

Also, it has been observed that the longer an investor stays invested, the lower will be the impact of volatility. Investors who are disciplined gain the most. Investors who invest systematically – through SIPs – are the ones who benefit because they capitalise on volatility.

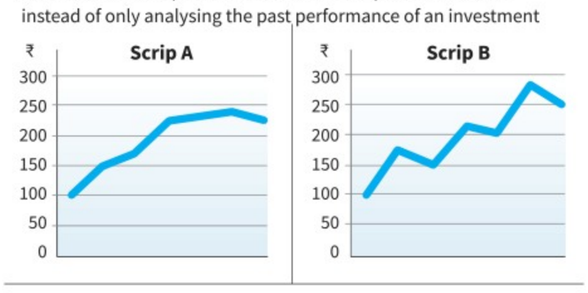
Going further, before investing do not seek information only on returns, look into both the risk and return possibilities.

Instead of simply looking at the past performance of that investment, be it gold, stocks, or mutual funds, ask for an update on its price movement.

(The writer is a financial planner and author of Yogic Wealth)

Picking the winner

An investor must update herself/himself on price movement instead of only analysing the past performance of an investment



Safe journeys!

COVERNOTE

Buying travel insurance before setting off on a vacation can help cover hospitalisation for even a pre-existing medical condition but one must pay extra premium

K. Nitya Kalyani

It's that season when everyone wants to get away and come back refreshed. India is vacationing! After buying travel insurance, one hopes.

Travel insurance is a package policy with emergency hospitalisation due to sudden and unexpected illness/ injury being one of the main risks covered. The package usually includes set compensation for missing or delayed baggage, lost passport, cancellation of flights and personal liability. There are packages for domestic and foreign travel, for individuals, families and tour groups as well.

Under the international policy, the health-related cover typically includes cost of consultation, hospitalisation, pharmacy bills, investigation expenses and local emergency transportation apart from cost of repatriation of mortal remains. In case of accidental injury or death, compensation is as per a table of benefits set out.

Treatment, except on an emergency basis, related to any pre-existing disease, whether declared or not, is not covered.

It has been available for over three decades now and coverage broadly remains the same with some notable improvements.

At extra premium

One of the improvements is treatment for pre-existing medical conditions, which can be covered on payment of extra premium.

Only some companies offer this add-on cover, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company being one of them, and Care Health Insurance and Niva Bupa Health Insurance being others. There can be a sub-limit, typically 5-15% of the sum insured, for claims under this cover. It may also be conditional, say, being only for life-threatening conditions due to the pre-existing disease.

Cover for locked-up home

Other interesting covers, extra or built-in, include compassionate visits of your family member/s from India, repatriation of minor children and even fire insurance for your locked up home back in India when you are away taking in the sights abroad! Read the specific clauses before buying, and weigh the costs and benefits.

If you need medical tests before a policy is issued, ensure you get a copy of the report and proposal form along with policy copy.

This ensures you and your insurer are on the same page should it come to a claim. It's a good idea to get the same medical tests done independently, in parallel, whether they are asked for or not, so that you have an independent record in case of any doubt or disputes.

(The writer is a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history)

Personal Loans

Rates and Charges		Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years	Loan amount 1 lakh Tenure 5 years	(% of loan amount)
Name of Lender	**Interest Rate (%)**	**EMI (Rs)**	**EMI (Rs)**	**Processing fee**
HDFC Bank	10.50 onwards	10,747 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to Rs 4,999
Tata Capital	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3%
ICICI Bank	10.75 onwards	10,809 onwards	2,162 onwards	Up to 2.50%
Bank of Baroda	10.90-18.25	10,846-12,765	2,169-2,553	Up to 2% (Min. Rs 1,000 and Max.Rs 10,000)
State Bank of India	11.00-15.00	10,871-11,895	2,174-2,379	Up to 1.50% (Rs 1,000-Rs 15,000)
Axis Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 2%
Kotak Mahindra Bank	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3%
Bank of India	10.25-14.75	10,685-11,829	2,137-2,366	Up to 1% (Maximum Rs 5,000)
Canara Bank	10.65-16.25	10,784-12,226	2,157-2,445	Up to 1%
Punjab National Bank^	10.40-16.95	10,772-12,413	2,144-2,483	Up to 1%
HSBC Bank	9.99-16.00	10,621-12,159	2,124-2,432	Up to 2%
Federal Bank	11.49-14.49	10,994-11,762	2,199-2,352	Up to 3%
Union Bank of India	11.40-15.50	10,971-12,027	2,194-2,405	Up to 1% (Maximum Rs 7,500)
Bajaj Finserv	11.00 onwards	10,871 onwards	2,174 onwards	Upto 3.93%
Punjab & Sind Bank	11.15-12.75	10,909-11,313	2,182-2,263	Up to 1%
South Indian Bank	12.85-20.60	11,338-13,414	2,268-2,683	Up to 2%
UCO Bank	12.45-12.85	11,236-11,338	2,247-2,268	Up to 1%
IDFC First Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 3.50%
Bank of Maharashtra	10.00-12.80	10,624-11,325	2,125-2,265	Up to 1%
Karnataka Bank	14.23	11,694	2,399	Up to 2% of loan amount (Min. Rs 2,500 & Max. Rs 8,500)
City Union Bank	9.50-14.75	10,501-11,829	2,100-2366	Up to 1 % (Minimum Rs 250)
IndusInd Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 3%

Car Loans

Rates and Charges		Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years	(% of loan amount)
Name of Lender	**Interest Rate (%)**	**EMI (Rs)**	**Processing fee**
Union Bank of India	8.75 - 10.50	10,319 - 10,747	Flat Rs 1,000
Punjab National Bank	8.75 - 9.60	10,319 - 10,525	0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 1,500)
Bank of Baroda	8.85 - 12.20	10,343 - 11,173	0.50% (Rs 2,500 - Rs 10,000)
Bank of India	8.85 - 10.75	10,343 - 10,809	0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 5,000)
UCO Bank	8.70 - 10.55	10,307 - 10,759	1% (Up to Rs 1,500)
State Bank of India	8.60 - 9.65	10,282 - 10,538	Up to 0.25% (Rs 375 - Rs 7,500)
IDBI Bank	8.75 - 9.90	10,319 - 10,599	Rs 2,500
Bank of Maharashtra*	8.90 - 13.00	10,355 - 11,377	0.25% (Rs 1,000 - Rs 15,000)
Indian Overseas Bank**	8.85 onwards	10,343 onwards	NIL
ICICI Bank	8.85 onwards	10,343 onwards	Rs 999 - Rs 8,500
HDFC Bank	8.85 onwards	10,343 onwards	0.50% (Rs 3,500 - Rs 8,000)
Karnataka Bank	9.37 - 11.79	10,469 - 11,069	0.60% (Rs 3,000 - Rs 11,000)
Federal Bank	11.00	10,871	Rs 2,000 - Rs 4,500
Punjab and Sind Bank	9.00-10.10	10,379 - 10,648	0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 15,000)***
South Indian Bank	11.65 - 13.10	11,034 - 11,402	1% (Max: Rs 10,000)
City Union Bank	14.25 - 14.75	11,699 - 11,829	1.25% (Min: Rs 1,000)

**0.25% interest rate concession for existing housing loan borrowers and corporate salary account holders*
***0.50% interest rate concession to borrowers with credit scores of 750 and above. Interest rate concession of 0.20% to borrowers for financing Electric 4 Wheelers. 0.20% concession to existing Housing Loan Borrowers*
****Concession of up to 50% on processing fee for PSB Apna Vahan Sugam*

Rates and charges as on May 16 **Source: Paisabazaar.com**

HEAD ON HIS SHOULDERS

Not thinking about Team India selection yet: Rinku Singh

Rinku Singh, who has emerged as Kolkata Knight Riders' top-batter and finisher this season and was picked by former India coach Ravi Shastri to make a late push for India's World Cup squad, said: "I'm not thinking that far. I will continue my routine, practice and gym... Names will keep coming, I will just do my job."

FIGHTING SPIRIT

We never gave up, credit to the boys: Super Giants skipper Krunal

Lucknow Super Giants skipper Krunal Pandya expressed happiness for his team's qualification to the playoffs post his side's one-run win against Kolkata Knight Riders. "My first reaction was satisfaction. We never gave up, we were put under a lot of pressure but credit to the boys," said Krunal.

FLY IN THE OINTMENT

Fleming reveals his squad is unsure of conditions at MAC

CSK head coach Stephen Fleming claimed his team is unsure about the conditions at MAC Stadium and may struggle to capitalise on the home advantage in the playoffs. "Each year is different... other years we have been sure, but it has just changed this year," said Fleming.

PASSING THE BATON

Want to make Pathirana better than me, says Malinga

Former Sri Lanka bowler Lasith Malinga praised Chennai Super Kings' death-overs specialist Matheesha Pathirana who has been likened to him. "I want to make this guy better than me. If he plays 10 or 15 Tests in the next three years, that will be invaluable to his development," said Malinga.

Green's hundred gives MI a resounding victory

Skipper Rohit also chips in with a stylish fifty; Vivrant and Mayank lay a solid foundation, but the Sunrisers middle-order and bowlers lose the plot; the Mumbai side finishes with 16 points

Powerhouse: Green swung the game Mumbai Indians' way with a belligerent knock. AFP

IPL-16

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Vivrant Sharma whacked the ball around in his first outing and so did Mayank Agarwal in his team's last game of the season. But, it wasn't enough for Sunrisers Hyderabad to end on a high.

Cameron Green's maiden T20 hundred and Rohit Sharma's timely fifty gave Mumbai Indians a resounding victory in its last league match of the Indian Premier League's 16th edition.

Rohit & Co. then took a victory lap to acknowledge the sea of blue for its support.

With Sunrisers continuing their experimental policy with the bowling attack, the onus was on its batting unit to post a total that would put the Mumbai Indians batting under pressure. However, even a total of 200 for five wasn't enough.

Green demolished the lacklustre bowling attack. Had Akash Madhwal not struck four times in the death overs, Green and his mates' task may have been a lot more difficult.

Madhwal's accurate bowling meant, despite the openers raising 140 runs in 14 overs, Sunrisers couldn't run away with the game.

The moment Green punched Bhuvneshwar Kumar straight down the ground for a four off the first ball he faced, one sensed he was keen to stamp his authority in the No. 3 position that he had lost for a while.

Ruthless

Thereon, till he raised his maiden T20 hundred and finished off the game with a swat through mid-wicket, Green was all over a hapless SRH attack.

While Rohit was at his stylish best, Green used the long handle to perfection.

That he cleared the fence a whopping eight times indicates the ferocity of his onslaught.

SCOREBOARD

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD

Vivrant Sharma c sub (Ramandeep) b Madhwal 69 *(47b, 9x4, 2x6)*, Mayank Agarwal c Kishan b Madhwal 83 *(46b, 8x4, 4x6)*, Heinrich Klaasen b Madhwal 18 *(13b, 2x4)*, Glenn Phillips c Kartikeya b Jordan 1 *(4b)*, Aiden Markram (not out) 13 *(7b, 1x6)*, Harry Brook b Madhwal 0 *(1b)*, Sanvir Singh (not out) 4 *(3b, 1x4)*; Extras (lb-5, nb-1, w-6): 12; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 200.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-140 (Vivrant, 13.5 overs), 2-174 (Mayank, 16.4), 3-177 (Phillips, 17.4), 4-186 (Klaasen, 18.5), 5-186 (Brook, 18.6).

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING

Behrendorff 3-0-36-0, Green 1-0-2-0, Jordan 4-0-42-1, Madhwal 4-0-37-4, Chawla 4-0-39-0, Kartikeya 4-0-39-0.

MUMBAI INDIANS

Ishan Kishan c Brook b Bhunveshwar 14 *(12b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Rohit Sharma c Nitish b Dagar 56 *(37b, 8x4, 1x6)*, Cameron Green (not out) 100 *(47b, 8x4, 8x6)*, Suryakumar Yadav (not out) 25 *(16b, 4x4)*; Extras (lb-1, nb-4, w-1): 6; Total (for two wkts. in 18 overs): 201.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-20 (Kishan, 2.5), 2-148 (Rohit, 13.1).

SUNRISERS BOWLING

Bhuvneshwar 4-0-26-1, Nitish 3-0-35-0, Dagar 4-0-37-1, Tyagi **(Impact Player in place of Mayank)** 2.5-0-41-0, Umran 3-0-41-0, Vivrant 1-0-19-0, Markram 0.1-0-1-0.

Toss: Mumbai Indians.

PoM: Cameron Green.

Mumbai Indians won by eight wickets with 12 deliveries to spare.

Final points table

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Gujarat Titans (Q)	14	10	4	0	20	0.809
Chennai Super Kings (Q)	14	8	5	1	17	0.652
Lucknow Super Giants (Q)	14	8	5	1	17	0.284
Mumbai Indians (Q)	14	8	6	0	16	-0.044
Rajasthan Royals	14	7	7	0	14	0.148
Royal Challengers	14	7	7	0	14	0.135
Kolkata Knight Riders	14	6	8	0	12	-0.239
Punjab Kings	14	6	8	0	12	-0.304
Delhi Capitals	14	5	9	0	10	-0.808
Sunrisers Hyderabad	14	4	10	0	8	-0.590

Q: Qualified

Gill's ton overshadows Kohli's as Titans knock out Royal Challengers

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Shubman Gill just refuses to live in the shadows. The uber-talented batter upstaged the master craftsman in Virat Kohli to earn Gujarat Titans (GT) a fine six-wicket win over Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Sunday. The result sent RCB out of the Indian Premier League (IPL) with Mumbai Indians taking the last playoffs spot.

Kohli (101 n.o., 61b, 13x4, 1x6) had become only the third batter in IPL history – after Shikhar Dhawan and Jos Buttler – to score back-to-back centuries. Gill, not to be left behind, became the fourth (104 n.o., 52b, 5x4, 8x6) and helped GT chase down the 198-run target with five balls to spare.

The 23-year-old sparkled with his iron-fist-in-a-velvet-glove batting style. He scored the odd boundary, worked the doubles and showed his class in the eight sumptuous hits into the stands.

Two of those came in the 18th over from Mohammed Siraj. With 34 needed from 18 balls, Gill swung one over deep mid-wicket and flat-batted another beyond the rope.

With eight needed from the last over, Wayne Parnell bowled a no-ball and a wide before Gill ushered the end with a six over long-on.

Sublime show: Gill and Titans had the final say in the battle with Kohli and RCB. K. MURALI KUMAR

Earlier, thunderstorms delayed the start of the contest by 55 minutes, and after the rain fury, RCB began sedately (10 runs from two overs). But Kohli and Faf du Plessis soon exploded, scoring nine boundaries in a span of 13 deliveries.

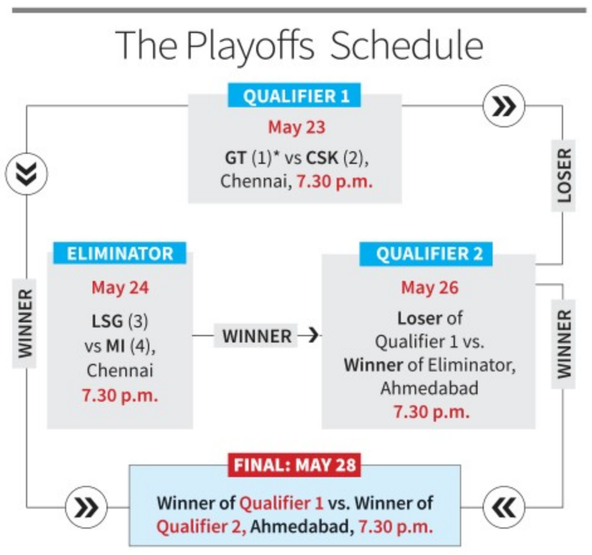
Hardik Pandya had to summon Rashid Khan, and the Afghan, along with compatriot Noor Ahmad, slammed the brakes. From overs seven to 10, RCB added just 31 runs to its PowerPlay score of 62, and lost du Plessis, Glenn Maxwell and Mahipal Lomror.

All-rounder Michael Bracewell, however, shifted gears (26, 16b, 5x4) before Kohli provided the end-overs flourish, with his dexterity coming to the fore.

Mohit Sharma was creamed past backward point, Yash Dayal blasted into the deep mid-wicket stands and Mohammed Shami flicked through square-leg.

The century came off just 60 balls but didn't provide the happy ending Kohli would have craved for.

The Playoffs Schedule



**Numbers in brackets indicate the position of the team after the league phase*

SCOREBOARD

ROYAL CHALLENGERS

Virat Kohli (not out) 101 *(61b, 13x4, 1x6)*, Faf du Plessis c Tewatia b Noor 28 *(19b, 5x4)*, Glenn Maxwell b Rashid 11 *(5b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Mahipal Lomror st. Saha b Noor 1 *(3b)*, Michael Bracewell c & b Shami 26 *(16b, 5x4)*, Dinesh Karthik c Saha b Dayal 0 *(1b)*, Anuj Rawat (not out) 23 *(15b, 1x4, 1x6)*; Extras (lb-2, w-5): 7; Total (for five wkts. in 20 overs): 197.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-67 (du Plessis, 7.1 overs), 2-80 (Maxwell, 8.2), 3-85 (Lomror, 9.1), 4-132 (Bracewell, 13.6), 5-133 (Karthik, 14.2).

TITANS BOWLING

Shami 4-0-39-1, Dayal 4-0-39-1, Rashid 4-0-24-1, Noor 4-0-39-2, Mohit 4-0-54-0.

GUJARAT TITANS

Wriddhiman Saha c Parnell b Siraj 12 *(14b, 2x4)*, Shubman Gill (not out) 104 *(52b, 5x4, 8x6)*, Vijay Shankar **(Impact Player in place of Dayal)** c Kohli b Vyshak 53 *(35b, 7x4, 2x6)*, Dasun Shanaka c sub (Prabhudessai) b Harshal 0 *(3b)*, David Miller c sub (Prabhudessai) b Siraj 6 *(7b, 1x4)*, Rahul Tewatia (not out) 4 *(5b)*; Extras (b-5, lb-6, w-7, nb-1): 19; Total (for four wkts. in 19.1 overs): 198.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-25 (Saha, 2.6), 2-148 (Vijay Shankar, 14.5), 3-150 (Shanaka, 15.3), 4-171 (Miller, 17.4).

RCB BOWLING

Siraj 4-0-32-2, Parnell 3.1-0-42-0, Vyshak 4-0-40-1, Himanshu **(Impact Player in place of Karthik)** 3-0-28-0, Harshal 4-0-29-1, Bracewell 1-0-16-0.

Toss: GT; **PoM:** Gill; *GT won by six wickets with five balls to spare.*

Manchester City celebrates title with win over Chelsea

On top: Manchester City players with the Premier League trophy. GETTY IMAGES

Associated Press
MANCHESTER

Manchester City celebrated its Premier League title in style with a 1-0 win against Chelsea on Sunday.

Julian Alvarez's 12th-minute goal secured a 12th straight win in the league for Pep Guardiola's team as the fans toasted victory by invading the pitch after the final whistle.

Leeds slipped closer to relegation after a 3-1 defeat against West Ham in its penultimate game of the season on Sunday.

Brighton secured European football for the first time in its history with a 3-1 win against Southampton.

Borussia Dortmund is one win away from its first Bundesliga title in a decade, after two second-half goals from Sebastien Haller delivered a 3-0 win at Augsburg on Sunday.

Dortmund is now two points clear of Bayern Munich with one match remaining.

The results: Premier League: West Ham 3 (Rice 32, Bowen 72, Lanzini 90) bt Leeds 1 (Rodrigo 17); Brighton 3 (Ferguson 29, 40, Gross 69) bt Southampton 1 (Elyounoussi 58); Manchester City 1 (Alvarez 12) bt Chelsea 0.

Bundesliga: Augsburg 0 lost to Borussia Dortmund 3 (Haller 58, Haller 84, Brandt 90+3).

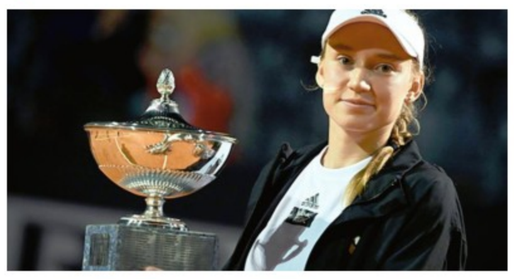
Serie A: Napoli 3 (Anguissa 67, Di Lorenzo 85, Gaetano 90+4) bt Inter Milan 1 (Lukaku 82).

On Saturday: LaLiga: Barcelona 1 (Lewandowski 90) lost to Real Sociedad 2 (Merino 5, Sorloth 72).

Serie A: AC Milan 5 (Leao 9, Giroud 23,, 29-pen, 68, Diaz 63) bt Sampdoria 1 (Quagliarella 20).

THE GAME CHANGER QUIZ
1. Who was the first Indian to win an Olympic individual gold medal?
2. Who is the first cricketer ever to score a double century in an ODI game?
3. Who is first female multi-medallist at the Olympics for India? (Clue: badminton)
Scan the QR code to read the terms and conditions.
WhatsApp the correct answers to 89392 83283. Top 10 winners* everyday win exclusive goodies.
The new, redesigned SPORTSTAR
ALL IN FOR SPORTS.

INBRIEF



Italian Open: Rybakina wins title as injured Kalinina retires

Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan won the Italian Open title on Saturday when her Ukrainian opponent Anhelina Kalinina was forced to retire through injury. Reigning Wimbledon champion and World No. 6 Rybakina was leading 6-4, 1-0 when Kalinina called it quits with a left thigh injury.

Other results: Men: Semifinals: Holger Rune bt Casper Ruud 6-7(2), 6-4, 6-2; Daniil Medvedev bt Stefanos Tsitsipas 7-5, 7-5.

Basketballer Kiran Ajitpal passes away

Former national basketball player Kiran Ajitpal Singh passed away on Saturday, following a brief illness. Wife of former hockey captain Ajitpal Singh, Kiran was 69. She is survived by her husband and two sons. The last rites were performed on Sunday.

Mangpineng nets seven as United FC Kodagu wins big

Mangpineng Khongsai scored seven goals to power United FC Kodagu past Young Star FC 9-1 in the KSFA A-division football league in Bengaluru.

The results: Bengaluru FC 1 (Shloka Krishna 70) bt Pass FC 0; Legends de Sporting 1 (D. Swetha 60) bt GRK Girls FC 0; United FC Kodagu 9 (Mangpineng Khongsai 4, 6, 24, 33, 43, 68, 70, Alisha Borges 29, Diona D'Souza 31) bt Young Star 1 (Michelle Davidson 40).

Indian women play out 1-1 draw with Australia

Deep Grace Ekka converted a penalty corner in the 42nd minute to help India women play out a 1-1 draw in its third hockey tour game against Australia in Adelaide on Sunday. Maddison Brooks had put the hosts in front in the 25th minute.

China claims record 13th Sudirman Cup title

China claimed a record 13th Sudirman Cup title on Sunday, defeating South Korea 3-0 at Suzhou. Chen Yufei defeated World No.2 An Se Young 21-16, 22-20 in the women's singles to seal victory, prompting the packed stadium to erupt in cheers and the entire Chinese team to rush onto the court to dance in a circle.

Prajwal Dev-Nitin Kumar pair loses in the final

Second seeds S.D. Prajwal Dev and Nitin Kumar Sinha were beaten 4-6, 6-3, [12-10] by top seeds Akram El Sallaly and Kris van Wyk in the doubles final of the $15,000 ITF men's tennis tournament in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on Sunday.

Kerley cruises to victory in his first 100m of the season

World 100m champion Fred Kerley of the USA cruised to victory in 9.91s in his first 100m of the season at the Seiko Golden GP in Yokohama on Sunday. The 28-year-old, who will defend his 100m world title in Budapest in August, finished ahead of Australia's Rohan Browning in second. Kerley clocked 9.88s in his heat to break the meet record in Yokohama.

LIVE TELECAST

NBA: MTV, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 6 a.m.

LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 11 p.m.

Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 12.15 a.m. (Tuesday)

Premier League: SS Select 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 12.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

Indians triumph in Asian u-12 tennis

Sports Bureau

The Indian boys and girls' teams have won the Asian under-12 tennis championship in Dhaka.

The boys – Vivaan Mirdha, Smit Undre and Rishikesh Mane – won all five league matches 3-0 each against Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Maldives, Bangadesh and Nepal. The team had Indra Kumar Mahajan as coach.

The girls' team of Karthika Padmakumar, Srishti Kiran and Niesha Enja beat Sri Lanka and Bangladesh 3-0 each. It also beat Bhutan 2-1, but lost 1-2 to Maldives. India tied with Sri Lanka and Maldives with three wins each, but emerged champion on the basis of better match-winning percentage.

The girls had Asha Sharma as coach. "We are proud of the achievement of our teams. We will continue to support and nurture the talent," said AITA secretary-general Anil Dhupar.

Bronze for Shaili at her first world-level international meet

The 2021 under-20 Worlds silver medallist, who has a personal best of 6.76m, jumped a wind-assisted 6.65m; the result would help her climb in the 'Road to Budapest' rankings

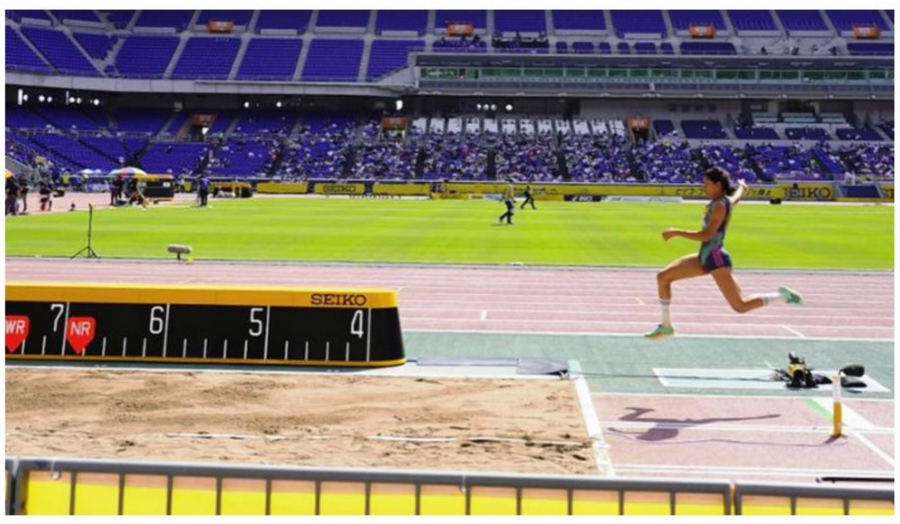
ATHLETICS

Stan Rayan

Shaili Singh opened her international outdoor season with a bronze at the Seiko Golden Grand Prix, a World Athletics Continental Tour-Gold event, in Yokohama, Japan, on Sunday.

Shaili, the 2021 under-20 Worlds silver medallist who has a personal best of 6.76m, opened with a wind-assisted 6.65m (+2.1) and that was her best for the day.

That kept the 19-year-old World No. 76, a SAI NCOE athlete coached by Robert Bobby George at Bengaluru's Anju Bobby High Performance Centre, in the lead till the halfway stage before Germany's World No. 17 Maryse Luzolo recorded a wind-aided 6.79m (+2.5) in the fifth round that gave her the gold.



Making her mark: Shaili takes off for her bronze-winning leap. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Australia's Commonwealth Games silver medallist Brooke Buschkuehl, the World No. 8 who has a personal best of 7.13m, took the silver with 6.77m.

Shaili's series also included a 6.59m in the second round under legal wind conditions and the result in this category 'A' event should help her climb a few rungs in the 'Road to Budapest' rankings.

She is currently in the 42nd spot and only 36 can make it to the World Championships in Hungary in August.

The qualification gates for the Budapest Worlds close on July 30.

The result: Women's long jump: 1. Maryse Luzolo (Ger) 6.79m; 2. Brooke Buschkuehl (Aus) 6.77; 3. Shaili Singh (Ind) 6.65m.

Andy Murray pulls out of the French Open

Associated Press
PARIS

Three-time Grand Slam champion Andy Murray has withdrawn from the clay-court French Open, organisers said on Sunday.

The 36-year-old British player lost in the 2016 final to Novak Djokovic and reached four other semifinals at Roland Garros.

An earlier report from British broadcaster BBC said Murray is skipping the French Open to prioritise Wimbledon.

World No. 20 Matteo Berrettini has also withdrawn for a second successive year after failing to recover from an abdominal injury.

The 27-year-old Italian, who suffered the injury at the Monte Carlo Masters in April, wrote on Instagram on Saturday: "I will not be ready in time for Paris so my return to the tour will be in Stuttgart." Berrettini missed last year's event with a hand injury.

Wet weather curtails Sunday's races

BENGALURU: Due to heavy rains after the second race rendering the track not conducive for racing, the stewards of the Bangalore Turf Club Ltd. decided to cancel the remaining races of the day, except the War Hammer Million, which has been postponed and the date will be notified later.

1. NEWMARKET PLATE: DAWN RISING (Rayan) 1, By The Book (Zervan) 2, Altamonte (Vivek) 3 and Perfect Halo (Kiran Rai) 4. Not run: Infinite Spirit. 3/4, 6-1/4 and Nose. 1m, 15.28s. ₹209 (w), 39, 12 and 42 (p), SHP: 26, THP: 106, FP: 887, Q: 204, Trinella: 8,884, Exacta: 46,310 (carried over). Favourite: By The Book. Owner: Mrs. Kokila E. Trainer: Faraz Arshad.

2. MANITOU PLATE (DIV. II): PAVAROTTI (J.H. Arul) 1, Emeraldo (A. Ramu) 2, Empire Of Dreams (Shreyas S) 3 and Maroon (B. Harish) 4. Not run: Master Of Courage. 9-3/4, 4 and Nose. 1m, 13.61s. ₹17 (w), 12, 53 and 14 (p), SHP: 208, THP: 36, FP: 674, Q: 376, Trinella: 2,415, Exacta: 8,558. Favourite: Pavarotti. Owners: Manjri Horse Breed Farm Pvt Ltd, Mr. Roopesh S and Mr. Neil Darashah. Trainer: Neil Darashah.

Treble (i): ₹12 (664 tkts paid on first leg).

Hitting the bulls-eye

Double delight! Prathamesh pulled off an incredible win to claim a maiden triumph in the compound event, while Ojas and Jyothi secured their second consecutive mixed team gold at the Archery World Cup Stage-2 in Shanghai on Sunday. WORLD ARCHERY & SAI MEDIA

Koepka ignores boos, grabs one-stroke lead over Hovland and Conners

PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

Agence France-Presse
ROCHESTER

Four-time Major winner Brooks Koepka shrugged off rain-soaked conditions and boos from spectators on Saturday to fire a second straight four-under 66 and grab a one-stroke lead at the PGA Championship.

Koepka, among US stars who jumped to the LIV Golf League from the PGA Tour, sank a 47-foot putt at the par-4 17th for his fifth birdie to finish on six-under 204.

That was good enough for a one-stroke lead over Norway's Viktor Hovland and Canadian Corey Conners, with LIV's Bryson DeChambeau fourth on 207. All three shot 70 on Saturday.

Undaunted: Koepka, left, and DeChambeau turned the crowd jeers into roars with spectacular shot-making. GETTY IMAGES

Koepka and DeChambeau, high-profile players in the PGA Tour-LIV split, were booed by the crowd when they were introduced on the first tee. But both turned jeers into roars with spectacular shot-making.

Koepka could join Tiger Woods and LIV's Phil Mickelson as the only players since 1990 to win five Majors by capturing a third career PGA crown.

Happy tidings

"I putted pretty well and I was pretty happy with my game," Koepka said.

Four-time Major winner Rory McIlroy fired a 69 to stand seventh on 209 with five birdies and four bogeys.

The scores: 204: Brooks Koepka (USA — 72, 66, 66); **205:** Corey Conners (Can — 67, 68, 70), Viktor Hovland (Nor — 68, 67, 70); **207:** Bryson DeChambeau (USA — 66, 71, 70); **208:** Scottie Scheffler (USA — 67, 68, 73), Justin Rose (Eng — 69, 70, 69); **209:** Rory McIlroy (NIR — 71, 69, 69).

Sharath, Sathiyan and Manika advance

TABLE TENNIS

Sports Bureau

India's top singles paddlers--Sharath Kamal, G. Sathiyan and Manika Batra–entered the second round of the WTT World table tennis championships in Durban here on Sunday.

Sharath eased past Austria's David Serdaroglu for the loss of just one game. However, Sathiyan had to stretch every sinew to outwit Tom Jarvis of England in a seven-game thriller.

Manika Batra scripted an easy straight-game win over Lynda Loghraibi of Algeria.

The results (first round):

Men: **Singles**: Sharath Kamal bt David Serdaroglu (Aut) 11-8, 9-11, 11-9, 11-6, 11-6; G. Sathiyan bt Tom Jarvis (Eng) 11-9, 11-8, 7-11, 11-2, 13-15, 11-13, 11-6; doubles: Sharath & Sathiyan bt Mohamed El-Beiali & Mohamed Shouman (Egy) 11-6, 11-9, 11-6.

Women: **Singles**: Manika Batra bt Lynda Loghraibi (Alg) 11-1, 11-3, 11-2, 11-5.

Mixed doubles: Manav Thakkar & Archana Kamath w/o Daniel Gonzalez w/o Melanie Diaz (Pur).

Saturday results (first round):

Men: **Singles**: Tiago Apolonia (Por) bt Harmeet Desai 11-13, 11-6, 11-4, 11-9, 15-13.

Women: **Singles**: Reeth Rishya bt Hana Arapovic (Cro) 11-7, 8-11, 5-11, 14-12, 11-3, 11-8; **Doubles**: Sreeja Akula & Diya Chitale bt Gaia Monfardini & Nicole Arlia (Ita) 8-11, 11-9, 6-11, 11-8,11-9.

Sawe and Tsehay run to glory in TCS World 10K Bengaluru

ATHLETICS

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Kenya's Sabastian Sawe and Ethiopia's Tsehay Gemechu powered through heat and humidity to claim the international elite men's and women's titles respectively in the Tata Consultancy Services World 10K Bengaluru here on Sunday. Sawe and Tsehay collected cheques of $26,000 each.

Under bright sunshine, Sawe edged out Burundi's Rodrigue Kwizera and Kenya's Hillary Chepkwoni to win in 27:58.24s. Sawe found a burst of energy in the final 500 metres as the leader pack entered the final stretch inside the Sree Kanteerava Stadium.

Champions all: Sawe edged out Kwizera, left, and Chepkwoni to emerge on top, while Tsehay finished ahead of Tesfaye, left, and Dida to lead an Ethiopian sweep in the women's section. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Sawe, who clocked the world's fifth fastest 10K time in Germany last month, crossed the finish line milliseconds ahead of his rivals. "I surprised myself with the energy I had in the last 500 metres," Sawe said.

Defending champion Nicholas Kipkorir, whose course record remains safe, finished fourth. There were no course records broken on the day.

Ethiopia dominated the international elite women's field, claiming the top three spots. Tsehay's speedwork came to the fore as she left her competitors in her wake as they made their way into the stadium.

It was sweet redemption for Tsehay, who made a costly error at this event in her maiden appearance here in 2019. She was poised to win gold, but mistook the placement of the finish line to end up sixth.

Tsehay, a two-time Delhi Marathon champion, stated that she benefitted greatly from interacting with Ethiopian long-distance running legend Haile Gebrselassie. "Haile is my hero, and his tips were invaluable," said Tsehay.

Among the Indian elite, Murli Gavit and Tamshi Singh posted the best timings. Tamshi was too good for her Indian women compatriots, breaking away and running the majority of the route by her lonesome.

"This is the first time I'm competing in a 10K run," Tamshi, 19, explained.

Gavit changed gears in the last two kilometers to push ahead of Harmanjot Singh and Uttam Chand.

Gavit and Tamshi won ₹2,75,000 each.

The results (top three):
Men: Overall elite: 1. Sabastain Sawe (Ken), 27:58.24s, 2. Rodrigue Kwizera (Bdi), 27:58.35, 3. Hillary Chepkwoni (Ken), 27:59.70.
Indian elite: 1. Murli Gavit, 29:58.03, 2. Harmanjot Singh, 29:59.10, 3. Uttam Chand, 29:59.24.
Women: Overall elite: 1. Tsehay Gemechu (Eth), 31:38, 2. Fotyen Tesfaye (Eth), 31:42, 3. Dera Dida (Eth), 31:45.
Indian elite: 1. Tamshi Singh, 34:12, 2. Poonam Sonune 34:29, 3. Seema 34:30.